

THE GOOD TIMES REVIVAL

# AUGUSTMAN

DECEMBER 2015 / ISSUE 112

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*A real man never  
rests on his laurels  
but proves his  
mettle every day  
of his life*

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## Whole Foods

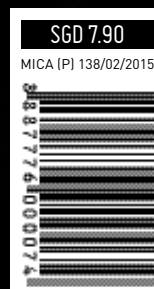
THE TRUTH BEHIND FOOD  
WASTAGE IN SINGAPORE

## Whisky Trail

DRINKING OUR WAY AROUND  
SCOTLAND'S DISTILLERIES

# Harrison Ford (Ep VII)

WHY HAN SOLO AND THE STAR WARS FRANCHISE ARE  
TWO THINGS THAT NEVER GO OUT OF STYLE



## ALSO FEATURING

LUCY LIU  
JORDAN SPIETH  
DAISY RIDLEY  
MICHAEL B. JORDAN





**BRAUN BÜFFEL**

1887 • GERMANY



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ISSUE 112 / THE GOOD TIMES REVIVAL



"Just who is Daisy Ridley's character in *Star Wars Episode VII – The Force Awakens*? All we have to go on is a single syllable name, 'Rey'. In any case, we're certain that the freshly re-booted franchise will do for her what it did for Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill in the original series."

JULIANA CHAN  
SUB EDITOR

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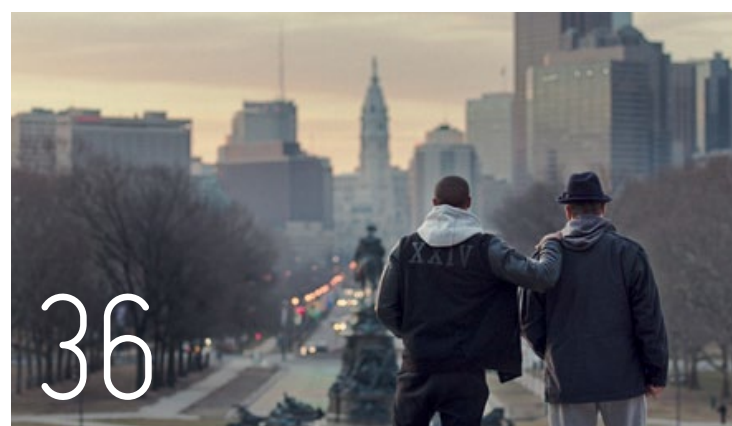
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"For over three decades, Harrison Ford had an intense dislike of his *Star Wars* alter ego, Han Solo. Ford so hated Solo that he tried to persuade Lucas to kill off his character in *Return of the Jedi*. 'He's certainly a much less interesting character than Indiana Jones. He's dumb as a stump.'"

DARREN HO  
MANAGING EDITOR

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or your partner



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SEAN MOSSADEG  
SENIOR WRITER

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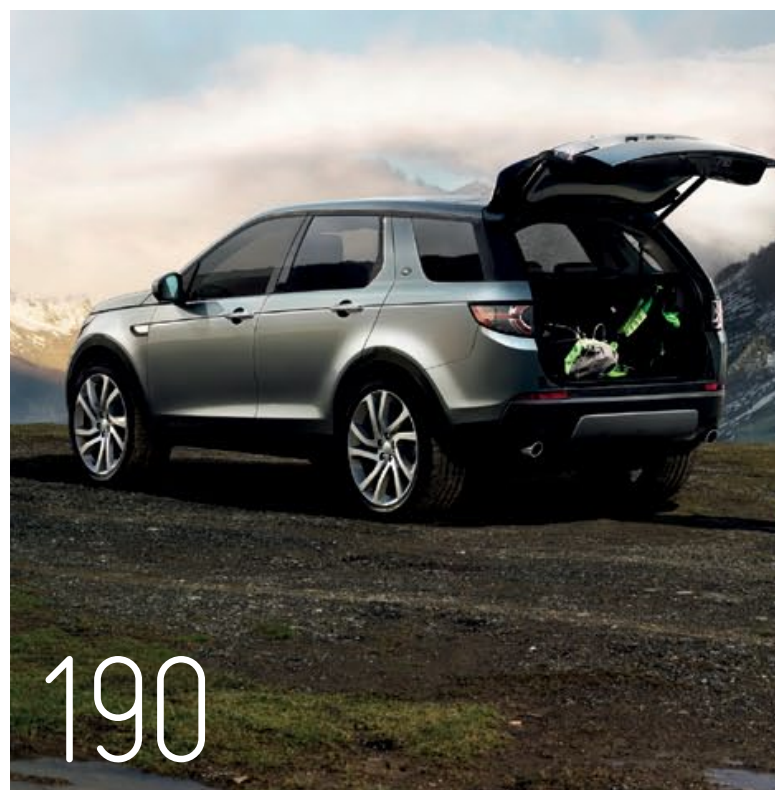
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"At 5th Quarter, Andrew Nocente's salt and pepper tripe is impressive. There's no better way to eat this usually wobbly hunk of a stomach lining than as savoury crunchy strips. It's nutritious and increases libido four-fold. Who would have thought?"

HANNAH CHOO,  
WRITER

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SINGAPORE'S DEFINITIVE MEN'S JOURNAL

# AUGUSTMAN

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**ON THE COVER**  
Harrison Ford

Photo: Anthony Mandler

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

THE HOLIDAY GLUT



PHOTO GETTY IMAGES

*YOU KNOW THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE* once more when you hear the bells of the Salvation Army on the streets, sounding out their charity needs 12 hours a day. As the streets start to bustle with shoppers looking for purchases to either assuage their absence from family or surprise their loved ones, the volunteers with charity groups fight for our attention to help those in need.

However, it's the charities that don't get as much attention in the public eye that really demands our assistance. One such organisation caught our eye earlier this year, when we were in the midst of looking for a cause that we could stand behind. We discovered it in The Food Bank Singapore. A lean team that's primarily made up of volunteers, the group distributes food supplies to hundreds of welfare organisations in Singapore, acting as the middleman between food donors and those in need of food aid.

Food wastage, in any developed society, is high. In Singapore, nearly a third of all food

goes unconsumed, when over 10 per cent of the population suffer from food insecurity.

Our associate editor, Farhan discovered much more when he spoke with the people behind The Food Bank, along with other agencies. Think about all the hors d'oeuvres that went unconsumed at the last party you attended. They could have gone to some family in need of food. Instead, they probably went down the chute.

The world provides enough food for nine billion, but there are plenty of people who can't afford three proper meals a day. It sounds preachy, I know, but a solution is needed, and it can only be made possible by social enterprise. Perhaps hotels need to rethink their buffet wastage policies, and work with The Food Bank to preserve leftovers for them. Supermarkets and food suppliers should give their unused produce to the organisation. And restaurants could ask diners to offer a dollar's tip to help Food Bank provide food to the poor. For me, this holiday, I'm making a donation in the name

of all my friends to Food Bank and sending them each a card to explain that instead of getting a fancy present for this season, they'll be getting the joy and warmth of goodwill in their hearts. If you wish to support our cause, just hit the code on the page and you'll be on the way to supporting our project with them. I hope you'll make the right decision.

Have a lovely December, and enjoy the issue.



**DARREN HO**  
MANAGING EDITOR

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# BACKSTAGE

ON OUR MINDS THIS MONTH: PARTY TRICKS



**FARHAN SHAH**  
Associate Editor

Every Christmas, without fail (save for the time he was overseas), Farhan organises a medium-sized party and invites his circle of friends, many of whom don't know each other, to a cosy location. Inviting groups of strangers to a party might sound like a disaster waiting to happen but Farhan has a technique to make people talk to each other. Before entering the party, he gives everyone the name of a stranger to "assassinate" until ultimately, only one partygoer is left standing. While there are no prizes involved, it starts everyone talking, if only on the pretext to "kill" each other. Festive cheer anyone?



**CHIA WEI CHOONG**  
Fashion Editor

Wei Choong is a brilliant entertainer, which is why he's frequently the star of our team parties. However he needs some incentive to get started. Last year during our Christmas gathering with colleagues he imbibed copious amounts of beer, gin and champagne that got him in the mood for a bit of dancing. He then subjected our colleague Sean to a little lap dance, whipping out moves that would put Nicki Minaj to shame. Wei Choong finally pulled out all the stops in a befitting finale to Rihanna's *Umbrella* that saw him twirling three umbrellas while attempting a split. We're still not sure how.



**HANNAH CHOO**  
Writer

Hannah likes a good time, but if the event calls for dress-up, she gets a bit lazy. You could say her party trick is being able to come up with semi-corny, quick-fire and easy solutions to outfit demands. Last Halloween, while her friends spent hours decorating themselves like Christmas trees, she spent a swift five minutes on carving a potato chip out of yellow corrugated paper that sat in her cupboard. It was the chip that went on her shoulder (get it?). Talk about lazy, but she plans to keep this going. Next year, she's making her return with a black pepper potato chip. Don't judge her.



**ASRI JASMAN**  
Fashion Assistant

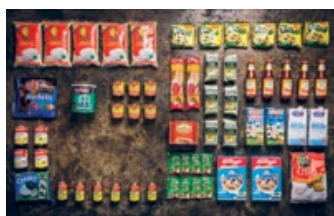
Asri's party trick is one that has been puzzling his colleagues for years – his ability to not drink yet be on par with their post-drink highs. This party trick comes in especially handy because Asri gets away with saying and doing things that he normally wouldn't since his always-drunk colleagues won't remember any of them. But at the recent *August Man* Anniversary Party, an intern who obviously hadn't had enough to drink commented on Asri's "prostitute-like" dancing despite not having even a sip of alcohol. The intern has now been relegated to getting him coffee daily.



**SEAN MOSSADEG**  
Senior Writer

Sean's favourite party trick is to dress up like a girl, complete with pigtails, skirt, and padded bra. He tried high heels but his dainty feet couldn't take the pain. During the company's annual dinner and dance, Sean came as a Harajuku Girl and gave a lap dance to our publisher. Everyone loved it and deep down, Sean really enjoyed cross-dressing, if only to make everyone laugh. He's now considering doing this as a full-time job.

*Disclaimer: Sean's Backstage column for this month may or may not have been written by his colleagues. But the events did occur as described.*



## DOING GOOD

We seriously waste a lot of food. Singapore alone throws away 30 per cent of food. Globally, we throw away one-third of our produced food away. When you consider that a large percentage of the world goes hungry every day (yes, even in Singapore), then that's an alarming statistic. Read more about the issue on page 114. Then, do something about it.



# AUGUSTMAN.COM

READ. REACT. INTERACT.

## WIN THE BOSE SOUNDLINK WIRELESS HEADPHONES

Made for mobile and built to last the whole day

It's a name that needs no introduction. Masters of luscious soundscapes, Bose has been making strides in audio for more than 50 years. The Bose SoundLink wireless headphones is another piece of great engineering: 15 hours of battery life, seamless audio and video sync, intuitive voice prompts, multi-point connections and more. It's the gold standard in headphones.

*We are giving away three Bose SoundLink around-ear wireless headphones II each worth \$399 this month on AUGUSTMAN.COM*



## THE BEST RUNNING SHOE WE'VE TRIED

Last month, we travelled to Tokyo to try out a new pair of Asics running shoes that the sports brand has been working on for three years. Dubbed the MetaRun, it's a technological marvel that boasts five never-before-seen innovations. Read our review online.

## THE ONLY GUIDE TO SUITING YOU'LL NEED

Suits are the modern man's armour. And just like the olden steel variant, suits need to be properly tailored to fit you. Failing to do so may result in ignominious defeat in the boardroom and the bar. In collaboration with Tudor, we've produced a two-part video guide on suiting. Find it, and other guide videos, on the website.



## STAY TOASTY WITH NIKE

Travelling to a cold country and looking for warm clothing? You may want to check out Nike's new Tech Fleece Aeroloft jacket. Don't be misled by its light weight. The snazzy fashionable piece can probably keep you warm in a blizzard. Find out what we think of the jacket on AUGUSTMAN online.



**Download August Man digital editions and follow us for the latest in Style, Substance, Success**

Q AUGUST MAN SG



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AUGUSTMAN



## AUGUSTMAN ON THE STREET



The Royal Selangor pop-up store at Suntec City Mall 13-22 November was definitely one for *Star Wars* fans. Aside from the limited edition figurines, the life-sized replica of Han Solo in carbonite was way cool. #RoyalSelangor #StarWars #HanSolo #AugustMan



The new James Bond  
Aston Martin DB10 in the  
flesh, just in time for the  
premiere of *Spectre*.  
#AstonMartin  
#JamesBond #Bond  
#DanielCraig #motoring  
#Spectre #AugustMan  
#vsc0 #AstonMartinDB10



Over in Shanghai, at the heart of @Gucci's No Longer/  
Not Yet exhibition lies a replica of creative director  
Alessandro Michele's favourite painting 'The Boy In Red'.  
@Gucci #NoLongerNotYet #Shanghai #GucciTian



If it were winter in Singapore, we'd have the perfect excuse to buy every Burberry scarf, especially since you can put your initials on them at its scarf bars at the Marina Bay Sands and Ion Orchard. #BurberrySG #Burberry



Bomberg's Bolt series timepieces are adaptable for wrist, pocket and desktop in a twist. How's that for versatility? Available at Watches of Switzerland.  
#Bomberg #WatchesofSwitzerland



If you were wondering about the congregation of screaming teen girls at Ion Orchard, it was because former K-Pop star Tao was at Moncler for its official opening.

#Moncler #MonclerSG



# PRELUDE

THE GOOD TIMES REVIVAL

## Byte-Sized Brilliance

*IT LOOKS LIKE HBO* is snapping up all the good ones and the golden age of television can live on. Netflix is currently producing all the shows that Hollywood ought to but doesn't any more, and the Home Box Office is grabbing telly time with *Last Week Tonight by John Oliver*. Now it's also got Jon Stewart, whose departure from late night television was a great loss to Comedy Central (although Trevor Noah appears to be filling his shoes well). Stewart will be with HBO for four years, creating short-form content for its digital platforms. The formats will be less rigid than your standard 30-minute blocks of programming. Is this the next evolution of television content? We think so.



## INSPIRATION



PHOTO JAYDEN TAN STYLING JASMINE HUANG

Since taking over at Ermenegildo Zegna, Stefano Pilati's distillation of the house's ideals into a high fashion line has created unexpected successes. A prime example is the belt pouch in supple calf leather. Style statement? Perhaps. Handsfree practicality on your travels? Two thumbs up. Beautiful? Definitely.

*Calf-leather belt pouch by Ermenegildo Zegna Couture, poa*



我們應該珍惜世俗的一切

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NOT QUITE YET

The word 'contemporary' is often thrown around without much thought as to its meaning, something that Gucci wants to investigate with its latest art exhibition in Shanghai

WINDOW TO THE WORLD

# PRIMER

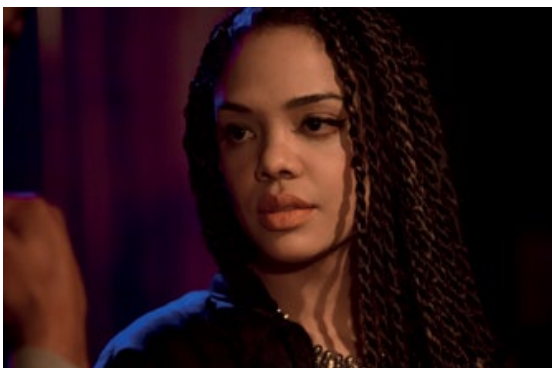
THE YEAR IN REVIEW / THE £10 MILLION TONGUE / DAISY RIDLEY / THE A-LIST



# Going Out With a Bang

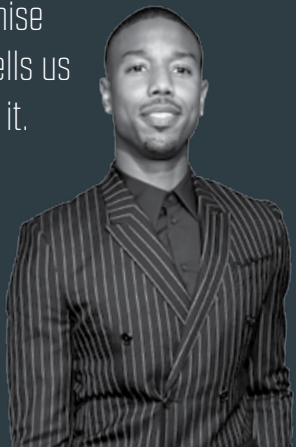
What better way to end the year than with great entertainment?

COMPILED BY SEAN MOSSADEG



## Michael B. Jordan

He has a famous last name and he's playing a character with a famous last name. Michael B. Jordan gets in the ring with the world's most beloved boxing film franchise and tells us about it.



FILM

## CREED

Rocky Balboa is back but this time, he's staying out of the ring and in the corner of Adonis Creed (Michael B. Jordan), the son of legend Apollo Creed. Coaching his old friend's son, Balboa sees to it that the boy follows his father's footsteps to boxing glory.

### Which of the *Rocky* movies do you think is closest to *Creed* in terms of story and tone?

I'd say *Rocky* and *Rocky II*. Our film is an underdog story; it's about a guy who has a lot of identity issues, so he's really just trying to figure out who he is.

### So, who is Adonis Johnson Creed?

He's a guy who never knew his father, but who's been living in his shadow his whole life. He grew up without a dad and is trying to fill that hole.

### What was movie boxing like compared to real boxing?

Real boxing is not always visually exciting. In movie boxing, everything has to be big for the cameras. You've got to do things that a real boxer would never

do, like throw a punch super wide. And that was hard for me because I'd trained for almost a year as a real fighter.

### What was the training like?

I'd get up four, five o'clock in the morning, eat, go back to sleep, get up, run three or four miles, go to sleep, get up, weight train, go to sleep, then box. That was my training. I'd go to gyms and train with real fighters. I demanded that.

### You went toe to toe with pros? How was that?

It's a humbling thing getting in the ring with a professional fighter. As a man, you like to think you can handle yourself in a certain situation. Boxer Andre (Ward) would say, "Ok, try to hit me. It's not going to happen, but just try." I'm thinking, "Try to hit you? Ok." You get in the ring and you're trying your hardest to hit this guy. You can't get near him.

*Now showing in cinemas islandwide*



## AGENDA



**Brushed Up**  
Chua Ek Kay's *After the Rain* (at right) depicts a scene of Hongcun town in Anxi



### MUSEUM

## THE NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE

The grand opening celebrations of the National Gallery Singapore have started and are far from over. For two weeks between 24 November and 6 December, guests can participate in the opening and have a chance to explore the gallery for free. Ten years in the making, the National Gallery Singapore will play home to the largest public collection of modern art in Singapore and Southeast Asia.

The gallery recently acquired two special exhibitions that will be featured alongside its Opening Celebrations. The works of Singaporean artist Chua Ek Kay and Chinese artist Wu Guanzhong will showcase the integration of both Chinese and Western art traditions through their innovative practices.

The late Chua Ek Kay's exhibition, *After the Rain*, will present a significant collection of his works and

commemorates the significant donation made by his family to the National Collection. Other interesting elements of the exhibition will be the showcase of his artistic development through his interests in calligraphy and poetry, the Shanghai School of ink painting, and Western art.

Beauty Beyond Form, the exhibition showcasing the late Chinese artist Wu Guanzhong's work, will boast more than 80 artworks, several of which are on loan from key arts institutions in China and Hong Kong and being shown for the first time here in Singapore. Low Sze Wee, director of Curatorial and Collections at the gallery, hopes that the exhibitions will further enhance public interest and appreciation of modern ink painting.

For more information, visit [www.nationalgallery.sg](http://www.nationalgallery.sg)



### GRAPHIC NOVEL

## THE SANDMAN OVERTURE

Neil Gaiman's cult classic *The Sandman* was first published in 1989, some 26 years ago. Telling stories of the anthropomorphic personification of Dream, Gaiman's take on the character has been lauded as one of the best graphic novels of its generation. Last year on the 25th anniversary of the character, Gaiman took to writing a prequel story on Dream. Titled *The Sandman Overture*, the story takes us on Dream's existence before he was captured in the very first issue of the series. Now available in a collectible hardcover deluxe edition, *The Sandman Overture* is a fitting last tribute for the King of Dreams.

Available at Kinokuniya and all leading bookstores

### MUSIC



## A HEAD FULL OF DREAMS

By Coldplay

It seems that the single life suits Chris Martin. Coldplay's latest album isn't quite the dreary soul-less emo-pop we've got used to and sick of – catchy guitar riffs and a hint of electronics makes the new album a pretty dancy one.



## ART ANGELS

By Grimes

In an interview a month or two back, Grimes shared that she wanted to bridge over into the mainstream. *Art Angels* is proof that she can have her cake and eat it. Edgy electronica with a tinge of pop. We say she's done it.



## TELL ME I'M PRETTY

By Cage the Elephant

Personifying rock, Cage the Elephant's fourth album still maintains the band's edgy (almost southern at times) sound. With Dan Auerbach of The Black Keys producing, the influence is clear.



# Festive Follies

'Tis the season for dreaded office parties. Avoid these if you want to keep your job

WORDS TERENCE RUIS PHOTO GETTY IMAGES



## 1 Drinking too much

Inebriated is the last thing you want to be at an office party, in fact, at any sort of official office programme, really. It's not so much the act as the consequences that come with it. The lowered inhibition that creeps in after one too many dry martinis can cause you to do something you normally wouldn't – like telling your boss what you really think of him.

## 2 Pigging out

Yes, that may be the best roast turkey you've ever had, but pace yourself. Few things are more repulsive than watching a person pile enough food to feed a small village in some corner of the world on their plates. Stay classy and invite the ladies to have first pick at the delicious nosh. And don't be that guy who hogs the buffet spread, no matter how much encouragement you get. Remember, the raised eyebrows are a sign of tomorrow's judgement.

## 3 Flirting with co-workers

We cannot stress how much of a bad idea this is. Vodka might tell you otherwise, but making advances on a co-worker at an office party is unpardonable. Not only will it make everyone feel awkward, it will also be seared in people's minds – and yours – as a mortifying memory. Good luck living down the weird glances you'll be getting the morning after.

## 4 Bringing an uninvited guest

What were you thinking? Definitely not cool. Office parties are meant for employees to unwind, interact and be merry. Save the introductions of your awesome girlfriend Stacy for another time. Just think of the catering mess it's going to cause, pure mayhem if everyone else starts bringing plus ones. Plus, when it comes to the Secret Santa exchanges, poor Stacy is gonna be left without the anticipation of what awful present she'll get this year.

## 5 Ignoring gift budgets

Secret Santa budgets are stipulated for a reason. It's so everyone who participates receives a gift of similar value. Overspend or underspend, and you will be the legendary figure that will never be forgotten, and not in a good way. Years from now, people in the office will be talking about that year when someone tried to suck up to a colleague by getting him an iPod touch, or getting some fancy toilet roll instead of a decent book. You'll be the one saying, "Yeah that was me". Awkward.

## 6 Talking about work

It's a party. Everyone just wants to hang out and have a good time. This is not the time to discuss business. Have a drink, mingle and relax. Better yet, have meaningful conversations with colleagues about their lives outside of work. It may seem trivial now, but this sort of bonding may save you in difficult situations in the future.

## DRESSING DOWN

Tacky Christmas T-shirts and sweaters do not belong at an office party. An ensemble of a dapper sports jacket, a crisp white shirt, and a pair of pressed chinos will show that you put effort into your outfit. This may even score you some brownie points with your boss – handy for when you ask for a raise.



# Earthly Fever

Spiralling climate issues are at stake in the upcoming conventions

WORDS DAMIEN STANFORD PHOTO GETTY IMAGES

*IF YOU WERE UNDER THE IMPRESSION* that this year has been unconventionally warm, you would be thoroughly correct, good sir. In between pouring toxic materials into lakes and seas, flooding and other miscellaneous natural disasters, this has been the warmest year on record. That is in part due to a double El Niño effect that's exacerbated the climate extremes, but also because our planet continues on its feverish climb to a heat record.

There have been numerous reports that may have given the world mixed opinions on whether global warming is truly bordering a runaway effect or not, but even if ice is increasing at the Antarctic, it's not enough to cool the world down, particularly not with incidents such as the forest pyres currently taking place in Indonesia, logging in the Amazon and other parts of the world.

We're in the third month of the archipelago's battle with forest fires, and it's been called a "crime against humanity", with a total carbon dioxide output that has exceeded the annual CO<sub>2</sub> production of the United Kingdom. The Global Fire Emissions Database has also claimed that the daily output from these fires exceed the United States' daily CO<sub>2</sub> commercial emissions as well. That is disturbing.

This month will see world leaders gathering for the United Nations' Climate Change Conference, and the world inching

closer towards the 2° Celsius global surface temperature mark, the limit at which nearly all scientists agree will permanently damage the world's ecosystems.

2015 will see the world go past the 1° Celsius mark, a rise in global average temperatures since pre-industrial levels. The increase can only be significantly attributed to human activity and the generation of notable amounts of greenhouse gases such as methane and carbon dioxide. There is a limited time frame within which we can salvage the system. This requires political, social and behavioural changes. Act now. The later generations will thank you. ♡

## SAVE THE WORLD WITH THESE FEW SIMPLE MEASURES

Quit it with the disposable plastic. Bring a container if you need to grab some takeaway, or use paper instead.

Use eco-friendly cleaning products. They cost just a bit more, but it'll help a lot.

Quit eating beef. Cows are the largest producers of methane gas. Plus, you'll be at lower risk of cancer.

Cycle. Walk. Go electric. It's time we quit our petrol addiction.

“

We are in the third month of the archipelago's battle with forest fires and it's been called a 'crime against humanity'





# The Art of Now

Gucci poses the question of nowness

WORDS CHIA WEI CHOONG PHOTOS COURTESY OF GUCCI

ALESSANDRO MICHELE has returned Gucci to the forefront of the fashion industry ever since he's shouldered the responsibility of its creative direction from the start of the year. His dreamy, vintage inspired collections have had fashion insiders raving and consumers lapping up every 'it' item he churns out. Even the rather unusual kangaroo fur-soled horsebit slipper he presented for this season was sold out before it arrived within the stores. Michele truly appears to have a fashionable Midas touch.

In the span of four seasons, two for the gents and two for the ladies (not counting the cruise and pre-collections that he's also put together), one of which he invented in just five days or so, the Italian designer has managed to create a new language for Gucci. He's spent the year breaking down gender distinctions, putting waifish male models in lace and pussy bows, further blurring the lines on what constitutes a women's or men's garment. Is it the choice of material? The use of colour? His runway shows are an orgiastic celebration of all that. And with store transformations underway, the alignment of his vision for Gucci is nearly complete.

His latest project curated with the influential image-maker and editor of *LOVE* magazine, Katie Grand, seems at first glance to be of little

relevance to a brand that's better known for its extravagance in leather goods. An exhibition, cryptically titled *No Longer/Not Yet*, sought to find resolution to a question perpetually in the minds of any creative individual: "What does 'contemporary' mean?" The answers are expressed in various works that were exhibited. One example was the artist Helen Downie of Unskilled Worker, who's had no formal art education. Her use of Instagram to promote her art was how Alessandro Michele discovered her. The impressionistic portraits of doe eyed adolescents decked out in Gucci were informed by her feelings of nostalgia and naivety when she saw his work.

Chinese artist Cao Fei's work *Rumba 2* addresses the rapid urbanisation rampant in China. Her work featuring household robot vacuum cleaners waltzing aimlessly on a patterned carpet and a video screen showing abandoned buildings facing imminent demolition is at once haunting as it is humorous. She's likened it to the internet, where "there's no turning back from it once it has entered our lives... We cannot help but to accept the changes that come with time and yet we feel guilty and upset for allowing





“

things to turn out the way they eventually do.” When quizzed on the collaboration and the relevance of her work to fashion she replies, “Being in fashion goes beyond being a movie star or model. It has evolved to encompass many things. Fashion brands have used campaigns to voice out issues. By incorporating philosophy into his work, Alessandro Michele is trying to figure that out. It might have been unthinkable in the past but in this day and age one has to be open and accepting of many other things, even criticism. As a brand it’s a way to give back, to be take responsibility.”

This openness and curiosity may be the reason for Michele’s success at Gucci. His nonconformist approach shows up opportunities that might otherwise be lost on others who only work towards profit rather than engagement. Gucci’s recent instagram campaign #guccigram got artists to hashtag submissions inspired by motifs like the Caleido and classic double-G print on the popular social media app. The approach is two-fold, engaging the public while promoting its products. The best thing is, it doesn’t cost a penny. 📍

It might have been unthinkable in the past but in this day and age one has to be open and accepting of many other things, even criticism. As a brand it’s a way to give back, to be take responsibility

THIS SPREAD CLOCKWISE  
Gucci Tian, or ‘heaven’. The  
floral room by artist Xie  
Yingjie; Alessandro Michele;  
a reproduction of “The Boy  
in Red”, his favourite art  
piece; Cao Fei’s Rumba 2  
piece in action



*Gucci presents No Longer/Not Yet at Minsheng Art Museum in Shanghai from 17 October to 16 December*



# A Year of Losses

If 2015 is anything, it's a year of painful violence upon the innocent and victimised

WORDS LARRY STEVENS PHOTO GETTY IMAGES

*IN THE WAKE OF THE VIOLENCE* that has taken place in Paris, Beirut and Baghdad, many have questioned the lack of public and media attention, and even political persons, on the latter two cities' exposure to terrorism, while Paris has garnered so much sympathy. Is it media bias, or simply a lack of concern?

It isn't the latter, but something that's summed up in one phrase: a lack of familiarity, on the personal, the media and the corporate.

Paris, for me at least, is associated with many things. It's where some of my closest friends live, where a cousin has transplanted, a former lover's residence, filled with memories of conviviality. It's called the City of Love, of Blinding Lights, after all. For many of us who live a less terror-inflicted, mainstream life, Paris offers happy moments of life. I've hung out at Rue de Charonne and now that street is stained with a cruel violence imposed by those who are ill-justified in their actions.

I've never been to Beirut or Baghdad, though I'm told that both are beautiful, filled with friendly people and a rich history. Perhaps what one might ask is, why do we hear or see less of many countries? Is it because we've never taxed ourselves to know more about them, or if they are more closed off, for various reasons that have nothing to do with bias?

It's a mix of both, probably. I'm not trying to justify my lack of knowledge of Beirut by blaming the Lebanon Tourism Board for not doing a good enough job of promoting the location to me. I imagine the government has many other things to take care of, such as fixing the utilities in the city and clearing the streets of trash before they once again rave about the best spots to have some mujadara.

Humans are emotional beings. We may rationalise our decisions, but our actions are frequently determined by how we feel about them, be it a moral, social or political imperative that encourages us to think and



act in a certain manner. I weep in a greater capacity for Paris than perhaps for Beirut or Baghdad not because I care less about them, but because the loss is less personal. Just as many would react in the same manner for the two cities as opposed to Paris. It's a privileged position, no doubt, that I can share that loss more openly and internationally, thanks to the Internet, and even here, on a national and international front. Is it fair? No. But it's not deliberately biased either.

The loss of innocent lives around the world is one that's difficult to bear. I have a friend in Burundi and his constant exposure to danger is something I worry about. I have Lebanese friends in Paris, who relate more to their adopted city than their birthplace, and so I fear for their lives in the 11th arrondissement

“

Paris offers happy moments of my life. I've hung out at Rue de Charonne and now that street is stained with a cruel violence

more than I fear for their lives back in Beirut. One thing I do believe we need to do as a world is to stop shaming one another about how we feel, particularly on social media. It's true that people of numerous countries, who face the threat of terrorism daily and who have experienced loss, have been overshadowed by the exposure of incidents such as Paris.

But social media isn't a platform for political discourse. It's a space to share our grief over a violence that's spread across the world. 🕯





# Flights of Fantasy

If you can't beat them, keep trying

“WHAT FOOTBALL CLUB DO YOU SUPPORT?” There’s a tense pause as the question hangs in the air and my mind races in its own interrogation process – Do I still support a club I haven’t watched in a decade? Do I even like football any longer? Wait. Who’s the manager again? Good Lo- “Man U for life!” I spit out without even realising it. “Yeah man. Been supporting them since I was eight,” I brag while mentally kicking myself in the head.

As true as it is that I first started supporting the Red Devils at an early age, in no way can you applaud the life choices of an eight-year-old. Just a year before that, I had pledged a lifelong dedication to Blackburn Rovers for the sole reason that the team’s logo was a rose and I was rather obsessed with Seal’s ‘Kiss From a Rose’. It’s getting harder to say that I love any one club these days. It’s not that I don’t care for football any longer. Manchester United, Manchester City; they’re all just names to me now. Gone are the days I’d happily

arrange to watch a football match with my friends (who all happen to be Devils’ supporters) over beers while threatening fans of the opponents’ team and cursing the referee pretending I knew what the hell I was talking about.

Try as I might to distance myself from the “sporty” folk, football’s crept back into my life in a different way. Every Saturday for the past three months, I’ve lumbered out of bed and sat in front of my computer, figuring out how best to draft a fantasy football team. For someone who hasn’t watched a full game in half a decade and only decides to declare an allegiance to Spain once every four years, I’m not in the best shape to be in a league, let alone two.

Why then would I bother dedicating any brainwaves to the ever-changing line up that I’ve christened “Toa Payoh Tuangkis”? Pure male bravado. The adage “give a man a fish and he’ll feed himself for a day, teach a man to fish and he’ll feed himself forever” should be reworked to include “teach two men to



Teach two men to fish and you’ve got an appendage-sizing contest to last a lifetime

fish and you’ve got an appendage-sizing contest to last a lifetime”.

In one league, my colleagues and I haven’t planned what it is the winner of the league gets but we’ve already determined that last place has to dress up in drag and head out on a night of fun. Immature? Maybe, but fun? Absolutely. In another, I get to bear the brunt of smack talk during office hours as my colleagues laugh about how I lost my lead at the top of the table. There’s a certain sense of motivation that comes with utter embarrassment and that’s the ethos of fantasy leagues.

After all, what’s the point of competing with people if you can’t meet within the week and lob good-natured insults at one another in the name of fun? **A**

Sean’s declaring he’s gunning for the top again, to his senior art director and associate editor. Just you wait. (Farhan’s reply: Keep on dreamin’)





# Who Still Uses Tinder?

There's a whole slew of new dating apps these days, but has anything really changed?

**IF TINDER** didn't do much for your love or sex life, don't give up. There are a slew of new apps out there to help you find love or a latest squeeze. They are even nuanced for different types to help you narrow down your search. In fact, there's one called "Sizzl" that matches people based on how they like their bacon. No joke. If that's a little too crazy for you, here are some others to try.

**BUMBLE.** From the people who originally developed Tinder, it works in basically the same way except only women can make the first move. Sorry guys. Well, unless you're a modern gent who has no problems with that. I'd advise that you stick with this one if you want to land a modern, informed woman who knows what she wants.

**COFFEE MEETS BAGEL and ONCE.** Swiping is fun, initially at least. But it can slide into a

narcissistic game of scoring matches. These two apps remove that by presenting one person a day from a pool of people you have common Facebook friends with. You then have 24 hours to get in touch before the match is dissolved. I imagine it's going to take more than an ounce of patience, especially if you're fed candidates you have not the remotest interest in. I'm betting you'll give up in four days.

**HAPPN** is about second chances since it's designed to reconnect you with your past crushes. It sounds like a stretch and a tad troublesome because of the questionnaires. So it's only for you if you believe you'd let The One slip away from you previously.

**HINGE.** Rather than creepy random strangers, this one introduces you to people with whom you have common Facebook friends.



Swiping is fun, initially at least, but it can slide into a narcissistic game of scoring matches

It's obviously trying to protect women. And it depends a lot on the kinds of people you are Facebook friends with. If I have accepted friend requests out of politeness, then I'm certain you have too, so we're really back to square one.

**LUNCH CLICK.** The app lets you propose date ideas and matches you with someone who likes them. This way, people connect through an activity and perhaps go on from there. Sounds like good ol' fashioned dating to me.

**TASTE BUDS.** No, not food, although that may be a viable idea too. This one connects people based on their tastes in music, which sounds very promising because music is something that runs deep in our emotional self and neurological tuning. If I were looking for a meaningful connection, I'd give this a go. Try it.

**FLIOPIC.** Bogus photos and profiles have been the scourge of dating sites and apps for the longest time. This one tries to nix that by having users make video profiles or engage in video chat before deciding to meet anyone.

**DOWN and FLING DATING.** While most apps try to match people with similar relationship goals so that those who want soul mates don't have to contend with fling seekers, these two are for those who only want sex. No beating around the bush, but upfront honesty about what you're after, so no one gets hurt, presumably. I won't judge, but I can't promise not to laugh if all you find there are a bunch of lady boys.

There are more but these are enough to make the festive season interesting. Then again, Tinder by any other name, shape or technological form is still, well, Tinder. It all boils down to you, ultimately. Happy swiping and good luck. 🍀

*Juliana installed Tinder exactly a year ago while in Geneva, just to test it. She didn't expect to make the friends she did, including two lovely women, a few eccentric old academics on the other side of the world, and Teddybär. She no longer uses it.*





People may grab their coffees to go but many others still believe that when you're buying coffee here, you're buying time

For a man who has been in the business for close to 25 years, Pelliccia attributes the rise of cafes like Costa Coffee to a shift in attitude.

"Sure, people grab their coffees to go but many others still believe that when you're buying coffee here, you're buying time. From the moment you step in, you're already planning to sit down and have a moment. It's a lifestyle choice," he explains.

When quizzed about his ability, Pelliccia is adamant that anyone could do it with enough time and practice.

"Routine and hygiene are important. I only eat certain things before a cupping session and I cup at certain times of the day. Your taste buds get saturated during the day, so morning is my favourite time to do it," he shared.

His biggest strength, he revealed, comes from his state of mind. "If you're preoccupied or stressed, you're inhibiting your senses from working with your thought process."

Pelliccia laughed when we asked about the insurance policy taken out with Lloyd's of London on his tongue back in 2009, a question he said he gets at every interview.

"Well, it's more like my entire capability of tasting, which encompasses both my nose and tongue. It's just more fun to say tongue because I can then do this," he said, sticking out the £10 million tongue. ☺

# The £10 Million Tongue

Gennaro Pelliccia tells what it's like to have the world's most expensive tongue

WORDS SEAN MOSSADEG PHOTOS COSTA COFFEE

NOT MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD can lay claim to having their tongues insured for a full £10 million. In fact, it's just the one.

Italian-born Gennaro Pelliccia is Costa Coffee's master of coffee, a position that sees him in charge of managing and quality-checking the secret brew of the international coffee chain. "Coffee wasn't really a passion until I joined the roastery. I had been a barista for a while before helping Costa expand and open new places. I joined the roastery after and was helping to select coffees – grinding and packaging," Pelliccia shared.

Taken under the wing of the former master at the time, Pelliccia grew to have a taste and love for coffee and was soon ready to take over the reins as master of coffee, a job he describes as "safeguarding the quality of Costa's core product". Throughout the year, Pelliccia uses his particularly fine-tuned sense of taste and smell to accommodate seasonal changes across the world and ensure that, while the beans may change, Costa's end product doesn't.



# Full Force

Daisy Ridley's star has risen

WORDS JULIANA CHAN PHOTO GETTY IMAGES

*THE STAR WARS* franchise jumpstarts this month with episode VII sequelling the original Lucas series. *The Force Awakens* will surely propel new faces into becoming household names the way it did a young Carrie Fisher back in 1977. You'll want to keep your eye on Daisy Ridley who plays a mysterious scavenger called Rey. As the movie is still not out at press time, we're sworn not to spoil the surprise for you, but fans have been going wild speculating about her true identity. For the moment we're just enjoying the spunk and athleticism Ridley brings to the screen. Hitherto getting cast in *Episode VII*, the 23-year-old British actress has mainly worked on television titles designed for younger audiences. Ridley has expressed that she still has to pinch herself to see if she really is in *Star Wars*, stating that she feels extremely lucky to have been cast. She was thrilled that little girls dressed up as Rey at Halloween, and reportedly shed tears when she saw the movie trailer for the first time. We all get jaded. Ridley's wide-eyed enthusiasm prior to the release of the movie is certainly a breath of fresh air. 🌟

*The Force Awakens premieres 17 December*







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# THE COOKOUT PROJECTS

We speak to the 2015 A-Listers about their creative fundraising efforts for The Food Bank Singapore

WORDS **TERENCE RUI** PHOTOS **CHUCK REYES** STYLING **CHIA WEI CHOONG**  
CLOTHING COURTESY OF **TANGS** HAIR + GROOMING **ALEX T** USING **KIEHL'S**

SUF ZUMLA, 30 & MELVIN LEE, 41  
**FINANCIAL ADVISOR | BUSINESS CONSULTANT**

**Could you share with us what your joint project was about?**

**M:** We had an entire night of fun, drinks, music and partying but centred on a hot wings eating competition. We had about 10 contestants, vying for the top spot. Those who donated also won some small prizes in a lucky draw. It's just really simple fun like that.

**Why did you guys choose to do a hot wings competition?**

**S:** To be honest, I was just looking for something that was related to food. At the beginning, I didn't know what to do but Melvin came along and we started to think about what people would like to do and see others do, and we arrived at a hot wings challenge.

**M:** I thought if we each did a food drive or anything else related to food, then we only have one person that's raising funds. But if we had 15 contestants instead, each of them can spread it to their network to raise funds. So I looked at it from a truly analytical standpoint. I thought about how I could raise the most amount of money in the shortest amount of time possible. But I also wanted it to be about food. At first, we thought about just having a typical food competition like "Who can eat the most hot dogs?" but then we remembered that this whole drive is to raise awareness about food wastage! So we decided to axe that idea immediately and go with "Who can eat the hottest wings in the shortest amount of time?" So the amount of food was capped, but the spiciness was not!

**What was the set-up like?**

**S:** It was held on Club Street just outside Bartini and Drinks & Co. They were very kind in letting us hold the event there. Drinks & Co. sponsored the event, so they supplied the wings. The managers of both bars competed as well! There was a DJ spinning, drinks were discounted throughout the night and the proceeds of certain drinks went to The Food Bank Singapore.

**How important is healthy eating to the two of you?**

**S:** I eat very healthily. I believe in strict diets and exercise routines. Think about it. If you don't look after your own health, who will?

**M:** I try my best. But I think for us – and Suf will probably echo this sentiment as well – we're very fortunate to even be able to think about eating healthily for the sake of our health or even just aesthetics. But the work that The Food Bank Singapore is doing is to address the basic food necessities of the needy. Their work is economically beneficial too considering that they're minimising food wastage. We have tremendous respect for what it is doing.

**S:** It's a big shame that people throw away the extra food that they have instead of donating it. Everyone should have food, shelter and clothing. Altruism is a value I hold dearly, especially in today's society where it's so easy to get lost.

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**On Suf (left)**  
Polyester jacquard blazer, **Lords & Fools**; cotton shirt, **Calvin Klein**; and wool-blend trousers, **BLACKBARRETT** by Neil Barrett

**On Melvin (right)**  
Triacetate-blend blazer and triacetate-blend trousers, both **BLACKBARRETT** by Neil Barrett; and wool-blend turtleneck, **Hosio**

**Breitling** Super Avenger II in steel case and steel bracelet



A portrait of David Wee, a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a black turtleneck sweater. He is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression, his hand resting on his neck. A Breitling Superocean II 44 watch with a steel bracelet is visible on his left wrist.

Merino turtleneck,  
**MARCHAND DRAPIER**

**Breitling** Superocean  
II 44 in steel case with  
steel bracelet

DAVID WEE, 37  
**BUSINESS OWNER & TRAINER**

**Can you tell us more about your project?**

I am going to run 21 kilometres weekly over a period of 10 weeks and raise \$10,000 in donations by getting clients and friends to donate through social media. I chose this project because of my love for running. I've been running marathons for about eight years now. It started as a hobby but I became more serious about it in recent years. I feel it's the best way I can give back to society.

**How do you keep yourself motivated to keep going every week?**

Motivation is a very important thing. I have a training buddy who runs with me. We pace each other, push each other and sometimes challenge each other. We also have a programme that we stick to religiously, so that helps. What really matters is having someone to rely on.

**What do you think of The Food Bank Singapore's fresh food truck idea?**

I think it's amazing. There is a lot of food wastage in our society and if someone is taking up a project to tackle it, we should help them build some awareness. We live in such an affluent society that we don't bat an eyelid wasting half a plate of rice. That's not good.



Cotton-blend shirt,  
**Greyhound Original**;  
and triacetate-  
blend trousers,  
**BLACKBARRETT** by  
Neil Barrett

**Breitling** Navitimer  
GMT in steel case  
with calf-leather  
strap



PAUL MICHAELE LOIZ, 34  
**SENIOR GLOBAL BRAND MANAGER**

**What is your project about?**

I teamed up with two of my crossfitter friends Jeff and Mark, both of whom are coincidentally former A-Listers. The three of us have a passion for CrossFit so we teamed up to create a workout for charity. The whole idea is that the more donations we get, the tougher the workout becomes.

**How do you stay motivated to eat and live healthily?**

For me, it's a necessity. The good thing about CrossFit is that you see the progress weekly. And seeing this progress makes it easy to stay motivated and press on. It also has a lot to do with community.

Mark, Jeff and I constantly push one another to train harder and to make healthier food choices.

**What do you make of The Food Bank Singapore's fresh food truck idea?**

Coming from a marketing background, I think it's a perfect idea. It's very consumer-centric. Having a roving truck that can actively address the nutrition needs of less mobile people is brilliant. It definitely also opens up more room for creativity with regard to the utility of the food truck – apart from providing food, this truck can also serve an educational or entertainment purpose. It's a worthy cause to support and I'm glad to be raising funds for it.



Cotton blazer, **Calvin Klein**; and cotton shirt, **Greyhound Original**



ANTHONY SOUTHAM, 39  
**COMPANY DIRECTOR**

**Tell us about your project.**

Earlier this year, I went to the Burning Man festival in America and all of my friends wanted to do a party afterwards. I decided to be the organiser for this party, leveraging on the networks we had. We were able to make this party a platform to raise funds for The Food Bank Singapore. It was held at the end of October, in the same building where Kilo is. We were given permission use the sixth floor so we created a nightclub in that space for one night!

**Could you shed some light on Burning Man?**


Burning Man is an annual festival held in the Nevada desert.

It's a festival of art, music, creativity and expression. It's been going on for 30 years and every year they build a city in the desert out of nothing. It's just the most amazing and heartwarming experience. It's great to see humans express themselves that way.

**How important is healthy eating to you?**

Extremely. I've been taking my diet seriously for about 12 years now, since I started going to the gym regularly. You can go to the gym or play a sport often but it's a combination of exercise, rest and diet that's important. I have followed a strict diet for years, so you'll rarely find me pigging out on junk food.





Suit and shirt, Jody's own.

**Breitling** Chronomat  
44 in steel case with  
steel bracelet

JODY CHAPMAN, 38  
**YACHT DESIGNER**

**Could you tell us a little more about your project?**

When I visited The Food Bank Singapore a few months ago, I was struck by the teamwork that it displayed. Having cycled with a team here called Specialized Mavericks for the last four years, I wondered about how my team could be of assistance. That's when I got the idea to promote The Food Bank Singapore and the work it is doing with the help of my team.

**How do you keep yourself motivated?**

Well I think two things are important here: time management and family. With time management, you have to pick the best ways to spend your time to feel accomplished. My family also plays a huge role in my motivation. My brother is planning on coming here to work with me eventually and my wife has just been absolutely fantastic throughout this process.

**What are your thoughts on The Food Bank Singapore's work?**

I was really impressed. I've worked with charities before and it's amazing how wasteful even charities can be. So when you see a charity like The Food Bank Singapore, which is very lean and runs like a business, you can't help but feel pleasantly surprised. Needless to say, the work it is doing to reduce food wastage is also very commendable.



## INSPIRATION



PHOTO JAYDEN TAN STYLING JASMINE HUANG

We may have hinted at, nay, strongarmed our appreciation for Boucheron's unisex jewellery line that is the Quatre. It is, along with the Piaget Possession, one of the few series we can say isn't simply an adaptation of a women's range, but is designed with equal opportunity in mind.

*Quatre Black Edition large ring in white gold and black PVD by Boucheron, poa*



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96

LAST DANCE

Partly inspired by the holidays and a Bowie moment, fashion editor Chia Wei Choong creates a dramatic fashion finale to the year

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MODERN VIRTUES OF DESIGN

# STYLOGRAPH

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ALBER ELBAZ / LOUIS VUITTON / DR MARTENS / 2015 FASHION HIGHLIGHTS

Wool jumper  
and cotton shirt,  
both **Gucci**





WORDS **HANNAH CHOO** PHOTOS **DR MARTENS**

No, I keep work playful and spontaneous.





# BEHIND THE SEAMS



## FANCY THIS



Palace Skateboards x adidas  
Originals Pro Collection



Raised by Wolves x Filling Pieces  
AW15 Mountain Cut Collection



Hender Scheme's Luxe Air Jordan  
IV-Inspired Sneaker

I improvise, and I make sure I have a theme. It's a bit like jazz music. You have a theme, then you improvise and try new things. Often, new challenges will surface, but you learn to work against the constraints of new materials and tools.

### Would you consider yourself a renegade?

Maybe. My work crosses contemporary art, fine art and illustration. It stems from aboriginal language, which I pioneered back in the '70s. Through art culture, I was inspired by Surrealism and the Dada art movement, an anti-art performance-based movement.

### Sounds similar to the language of Dr Martens.

There's a lot of synergy between us. I must have had more than 20 or 30 pairs of Dr Martens over the years. Also, I'm about the

same age as Dr Martens. I'd say that helps a lot in the collaboration, which is the first since the last one in the 1990s.

### You have to be careful with who you work with.

Yeah. This is great because I like to be associated with Dr Martens. Other than that, I'm not really interested in doing anything with anyone else at the moment. Maybe in a few years' time. I do, however, produce my own T-shirts in limited quantities. They can be bought online.

### When do you think it's crossing the line when it comes to art?

I think art remains art as long as you maintain your integrity. ☺

Find Dr Martens at B1-31 Capitol Piazza







# Going Places

Kim Jones continues to explore the traveller aesthetic for Louis Vuitton's SS16 precollection for men

WORDS JEREMY GOPALAN PHOTOS LOUIS VUITTON

*THERE IS NO QUESTION* that a wanderlust spirit flows through Kim Jones' veins. The style director of menswear at Louis Vuitton, who has always expressed that he travels a great deal for the sake of research, has consistently drawn inspiration for his collections from the cultures of countries far and wide; from the infinitely vibrant subcontinent of India to the exotic continent of Africa.

For instance, who can forget his 2011 debut at the luxury house when his lauded collection brought to the masses stunning scarves of glorious blue and red plaids, which referenced his childhood spent in Kenya and a Masai blanket he kept as a souvenir (and which were an instant commercial hit)?

And it's impossible not to acknowledge his subsequent collection that featured swirling abstract patterns – an interpretation of aerial NASA maps of South America – that Jones and his team had been studying, following a visit to the Atacama Desert in Chile.

"I've always travelled, it's part of me. I work for a brand with travel in its DNA and if I can't

bring things back to inspire my team and the consumer, I feel I'm not doing my job properly. All successful men have to travel for work now, whether they like it or not, so you have to understand their lifestyle," he once said in an interview with *i-D* magazine.

Indeed, his sensibilities are a great match with Louis Vuitton, a maison that has long prided itself on its grand heritage of travel. But despite the grandeurs of its history, the aesthetics of adventure were always firmly grounded. The clothes, for instance, were always sleek, wearable and cool – distinctions that Jones has turned into his signature in the course of his tenure at the brand.

Jones' former experience in and penchant for sportswear has also taken shape at the French luxury maison. Impeccable suiting is always accompanied by strong outerwear, and even greater knitwear. The former, in particular, is almost always combined with sneakers, giving off the casual vibe that Jones so strongly espouses.

In his four years at Louis Vuitton, Jones

has firmly established the Parisian brand as a global menswear player with a luxurious casual aesthetic. And there is no doubt that the designer owes much of his success at Louis Vuitton to his diligence as a researcher, as well as the pragmatism and restraint he applies when channelling his creativity into commercial ends.

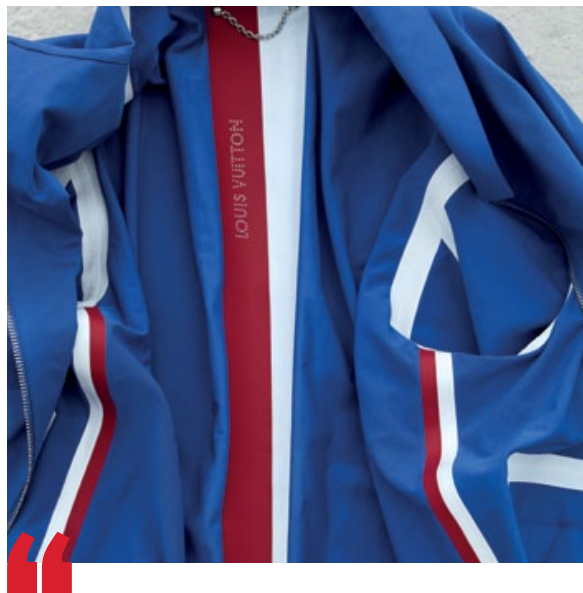
For the 2016 precollection, Jones has opted for an international albeit introspective approach. Perhaps in a way representing notions of personal identity and the global reach of the brand, Jones showcases his love of travel by connecting it with flags. Popping up as the unofficial signature graphic print of the season, the motif appears in the form of unique incarnations of various recognisable LV logos such as the Gaston V signature, which is a play on the French flag, and the LV signature ensconced in a circle. This flamboyant graphic print is reiterated unexpectedly and sporadically throughout the range of apparel: from a bold short-sleeved baby blue shirt upon which the print runs amok and which is at





## PATTERN RECOGNITION

Karakoram (below) is one of the first patterns created by Louis Vuitton in the 1920s. Since Jones re-edited this traditional piece for the 2012 Fall Winter show, the Karakoram pattern has been frequently employed for various collections. It resurfaces this season as a print on four small leather goods in vivid colours of blue and yellow.



There is no doubt that Jones owes much of his success at Louis Vuitton to his diligence as a researcher, and the pragmatism and restraint he applies

once playful yet serious in its buttoned-down severity, to accessories such as a covetable pair of leather canvas loafers and a scarf.

Another distinct albeit more diffused graphic abstraction is the digital Ikat, which was achieved using a mix of traditional techniques and modern technology to create a subtly textured yet eye-catching motif with gradating colour nuances that lend a modernist aesthetic. From afar, the print resembles a restrained tie-dye effect and Jones has used it for a casual but smart short-sleeved printed shirt and for a nylon parka with generously-sized safari-style front pockets that can be cleverly cinched at the waist for a sleeker looking silhouette.

As can be expected, the laid-back sensibility of the nomadic traveller pops up in the subdued ash-brown technical canvas coat that catches one off guard with the bold parallel stripes in the lining, functional albeit sophisticated leather pocket flaps and striking white band on the wrist cuff.

The versatility of this look is also reflected in the all-purpose cork-soled Bayside sandal, which comes in shades of white and brown – it's an item that we suspect will fly off the shelves. The collection's iteration of the ever-popular Christopher backpack in brown with matching parallel stripes, and also in dynamic hues of red and yellow, make unforgettable style statements.

Trunk stripes are another recurrent motif in the blue-, white- and taupe-heavy collection. It appears as an unmissable thick white line, splashed liberally across multiple pieces. You can find it on the basic crew neck, on a delightfully cool and functional technical banner blouson, and also on a pair of beautiful nylon swim shorts.

This conceptual thread coherently ties the collection together, alongside the judicious use of technical fabrics and soft tailoring that expounds a relaxed nature. It is a testament to Jones' genius that the pieces are not just sophisticated, but also wearable.

Leather, as always, features prominently in the collection. The varsity leather jacket, with its dual-tone of chocolate and caramel executed in strict lines, somehow manages to inject a traditionally casual style with an unexpected degree of finesse and urbanity. The same goes for the mix colour racer jacket that takes away the hardness of typical biker jackets and replaces it with a certain subdued elegance in the way the leather conforms to the torso.

Once again, this assemblage demonstrates Louis Vuitton's status as a player to be reckoned with in the burgeoning menswear field, thanks to Jones' attempts to anticipate the sartorial needs and wants of the stylish modern traveller. And you certainly can't deny that it takes one to know one. 🐘



# Swan Songs

Take a bow, Raf Simons and Alber Elbaz

WORDS **DARREN HO** PHOTOS **GETTY IMAGES**



*DAYS AFTER THE CONCLUSION* of Christian Dior's incredible Spring 2016 Haute Couture show, Raf Simons announced he would not be renewing his contract with the label. The designer declined to comment about his decision to leave the French fashion label beyond a letter circulated to the press, where he thanked the company for the opportunity afforded to him during the last three years.

The pressures of leading a fashion label have become increasingly obvious to the public, with the subsequent breakdowns just as public. Today, apart from the two main seasons a year and two smaller collections, there are the couture ranges, advertising campaigns, events, entertainment, private sales, visual merchandising, store concepts, etc. There is a seemingly endless list of things to do, many of which are no longer creatively led, but commercially focused.


More recently, Lanvin's long-standing designer Alber Elbaz departed from the oldest French fashion house after 14 years with the brand. During the Fashion Group International's Night of Stars 2015 award night, Elbaz gave an emotional and powerful speech about the current relentless pace of fashion in all aspects, from design to critique and retail. "We designers started as couturiers with dreams, with intuitions and with feelings. That is what we used to

“

Now we have to become image-makers, making sure it looks good in the pictures. The screen has to scream

do. Then we became creative directors, so we have to create, but mostly direct. And now we have to become image-makers, making sure it looks good in the pictures. The screen has to scream baby – that's the rule. And loudness is the new thing... I prefer whispering. I think it goes deeper and lasts longer."

He points out that technology is making fashion evolve. "I believe that the biggest change in fashion will come because of technology and with technology. But the real evolution will happen when tradition and know-how, and human touch, and beauty, and newness, and technology, will become one."

Elbaz, with his portly physique and penchant for grosgrain and oversized bow ties, is a gentleman couturier who has incredible heart. His separation from Lanvin isn't due to a lack of success. As people and companies crave for more, it's hard for design to keep up. Fortunately (and unfortunately), fashion isn't quite like Foxconn. As Elbaz points out, it's lovely to dream. 

## BESIDES LANVIN

Other fashion labels that have seen top creative changes



### Balenciaga

Alexander Wang recently acquitted himself from Balenciaga, joyously leaping down the runway in his last collection for the label that has seen record commercial success in recent times. His replacement has been appointed. Demna Gvasalia, founder of Parisian label Vetements, takes over the reins.



### Bill Blass

The self-named fashion label, whose founder passed away in 2002, has floundered in the last dozen years, flitting through the hands of several designers until it went quiet for a few years. Now Chris Benz is refreshing the brand's look and access through electronic commerce.



### Gant

Christopher Bastin announced that he was stepping down as creative director, and the brand noted that a new name would be helming the company's design direction by the end of the year. Bastin, who first joined Gant as a shirt designer a decade ago, decided he would be pursuing other dreams.



# 2015 in Fashion

Some of the year's fashion moments that made headlines

WORDS ASRI JASMAN



*THE FASHION INDUSTRY HAS BEEN BUZZING* this year, with the shocking creative directorship changes to the bizarre and provocative runway shows. We take a look at some of the fashion moments that has left us surprised, stupefied and sometimes simply asking, “Why?”

## YEEZY MADNESS

You can call Kanye West by many names but his collaboration with adidas has created quite an impact. Criticisms and questionable behaviour aside (West interfered New York Fashion Week's schedule with a surprise show), the Yeezy Boost sneakers have caused multiple online shopping platforms to get hit with so much traffic that they crash in minutes. Creative genius? Maybe. Cultural icon? Yes.

## WAS THAT APPROPRIATE?

With a theme celebrating China's influence in fashion, art and film, cultural appropriation was inevitable at Met Gala 2015. We weren't sure what to make of Sarah Jessica Parker's Philip Treacy headdress or Justin Bieber's dragon embellished Balmain blazer. But the memes that were plastered all over social media after the event were priceless.

## THE INS AND OUTS

Raf Simons, Alexander Wang and Alber Elbaz were some of the shockers that shook the fashion industry when news of their departure from their positions broke out (read about it on page 68). But none seemed to be as brutal as Gucci's abrupt end with Frida Giannini.

It took three weeks to construct a dome made up of 400,000 blue Delphiniums for Christian Dior

The former creative director was ousted even before she had the chance to showcase her final work for the house and was replaced by Alessandro Michele, a relatively unknown figure but Giannini's longtime work partner.

## FLOWER POWER

When it comes to elaborate fashion shows, Karl Lagerfeld comes to mind. He created a Chanel-everything supermarket and transformed the Grand Palais into a detailed Parisian street. It was hard to find anything more elaborate until Raf Simons came along. The recent Paris Fashion Week saw Raf Simons go all out, constructing a beautiful dome made up of 400,000 blue Delphiniums in the middle of Cour Carrée of the Musée du Louvre (top image). It took three weeks of work, just for a 12-minute runway show now recognised as Raf Simons' swansong at Christian Dior.

## NOT SAFE FOR RUNWAY

Not one to shy away from unconventional designs and habits, Rick Owens raised eyebrows when he sent male models down the runway with their genitalia exposed (right). Several months later during the women's spring/summer 2016 collection, models were strapped upside down to one another. Now that's going out on a limb for fashion. 🍌





# STYLE IN SIMPLICITY

Effortlessly alluring items for your wardrobe

WORDS **TERENCE RUIS**



## SHOULDER IT

Despite the ease and convenience of modern technology, it doesn't seem to have really cut down on our briefcase contents. It has offered up alternatives to the briefcase, however, in the form of shoulder-friendly leather tote bags. **\$1,190**

*Available at Furla*

Always remove detachable leather straps and keep them inside the bag when storing to avoid misshaping them



## CUFF 'EM!

Cufflinks are a welcome addition to a man's ensemble. They aren't all made equally stylish, however. Add some easy sophistication with a geometric-patterned piece. Perfect for any occasion. **\$175**

*Available at Shanghai Tang*

## KICK IT

Chelsea boots should be a staple in every man's wardrobe. Originally designed for Queen Victoria, it's rigged for comfortable all-day wear. Timberland and Publish have created an edition inspired by California's street-style culture. Great with a pair of jeans. **\$279**

*Available at Timberland*



## FEELING LUCKY, PUNK?

Leather jackets are timeless additions to your wardrobe. This punk-inspired one from Sandro features cut-out patches of punk bands from the yesteryears. Pair it with stonewashed jeans and you're good to go. **\$1,740**

*Available at Sandro*

## PEN DOWN

You don't want to be caught with office standard writing equipment when putting your John Hancock down unless office standard is this Hermès instrument, available in fountain and ballpoint. **\$2,590**

*Available at Hermès*







### NO FUSS, NO MUSS

The tuxedo is somewhat of a classic men's essential. Though rigid rules may call for an all-black piece, midnight blue offers a much more attractive style for that New Year's Eve party. And remember, it's essential to act like a gent, not just dress like one. **\$119**

*Available at H&M*

### AYE, PROTECTION

When you live on a sunny little island, shades are an absolute must to protect those precious peepers. Tommy Hilfiger does this perfectly while ensuring style is not compromised with these classic browline sunglasses. Throw them on before you head out to lunch with your colleagues. **\$290**

*Available at authorised dealers*



### MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

A man's wallet speaks volumes about him, and is always under scrutiny when he takes it out to pay for anything. Keep it simple and coolly seasonal with this supreme canvas billfold from Gucci. **\$460**

*Available at Gucci*



### LIGHTWEIGHT

If you're stepping out for a bit but don't want to haul a huge bag around, drawstring bags can come in pretty handy. This leather one from COS marries style with utility – perfect for any casual outfit. **\$125**

*Available at COS*

----- Creases on leather drawstring bags are cool and add character to the simple silhouette



### TRAVEL IN STYLE

When it comes to luggage, weight, security and mobility are vital factors. Zero Halliburton's got an industrial standard for you. Apart from the extra strength its custom-design draw-bolt latches provide, it even boasts specialized brake stoppers so the case remains secure on uneven surfaces. **poa**

*Available at Zero Halliburton*



### GETTING HANDSY WITH TECHNOLOGY

If you've gotten frustrated with being unable to properly use a touchscreen mobile device with gloves on in the cold, you're in luck. Combining nanotechnology and style, Dutch tech accessories brand Mujjo created a leather glove that works perfectly with touchscreens. No more braving the cold just to get a few texts out. Retails for €99.95 at mujjo.com.





**keep your head  
in the clouds  
and your  
feet on the  
ground.**

PHOTOGRAPHY **CHUCK REYES** STYLING **CHIA WEI CHOONG**





Wool overcoat and  
wool T-shirt, both  
**Prada**; cotton  
denim skirt and  
wool trousers,  
both **Givenchy by  
Riccardo Tisci**

OPPOSITE  
Wool T-shirt,  
wool shorts and  
cotton belt (worn  
throughout), all  
**Prada**



Calf-leather hoodie  
and keychain, both  
**Louis Vuitton**

OPPOSITE  
Wool T-shirt, **Prada**;  
viscose shirt (worn  
under), **Gucci**;  
and wool trousers,  
**dunhill**












Cotton shorts, **Gucci**;  
patent-leather  
jacket, cotton tank,  
cotton socks and  
calf-leather shoes,  
all **Prada**

OPPOSITE  
Wool T-shirt,  
**Prada**; and silk shirt,  
**Bottega Veneta**









Organic cotton bomber jacket, **Maharishi** (available at TANGS); rayon-blend T-shirt, **Fendi**; and wool shorts, **Prada**

OPPOSITE  
Viscose-blend shirt, **Prada**; wool-blend trousers, **Emporio Armani**

Hair+Grooming:  
**Wee Ming**  
Fashion Assistance:  
**Felix Woei**  
Model: **Charles M/**  
Mannequin







SPOTLIGHT

Bally, \$830



Dior Homme,  
\$1,200



# Dapper Duty

Accessories are exactly what you need to add festive cheer to an outfit

WORDS **ASRI JASMAN** PHOTOGRAPHY **CHER HIM** STYLING **CHIA WEI CHOONG**

## PATENT PERFECT

Get more out of your patent leather shoes by not restricting them to black or white tie events. At more casual shindigs, dress up a velvet or a deep-coloured suit with a pair. It raises the fancy level without looking uppity.

Suitsupply, \$469



Church's, \$980





SPOTLIGHT



Paul Smith,  
\$190



Gucci, \$230

TAKE A BOW

With ready-made bow ties now available in attractive styles, there's no reason not to take advantage of their snap-on convenience. There's something slightly playful to them that ups the fun factor. So although we implore you to learn how to tie a real bow as every gentleman should, we promise we won't judge you for donning some of these.



Uomo  
Collezioni,  
\$900 (with  
cummerbund)



Dior Homme,  
\$220



# Party Player

How to dress for the season of relentless revelry

WORDS + STYLING **ASRI JASMAN** PHOTOS **CHER HIM**

## CHRISTMAS PARTIES

It might be the festive season, but that doesn't give you a free pass to look like a Christmas tree. If you must, stick to the classic colours, but dial down on the hues.

Maroon or oxblood are great modern options and aren't as blinding as Christmas red. Find a shade that suits your skin tone. We've limited the look here to two base colours – red and blue. The plaid blazer adds texture and pairs nicely with the plain deep burgundy trousers and navy shirt.

We prefer using accessories to up the festive ante. They pack just the right amount of punch while still making you look classy.

Wool-blend blazer and cotton trousers, both **Suitsupply**; cotton shirt, **BOSS Men**; silk bow tie, **Gucci**; and velvet slippers, **Jimmy Choo**



### BLUE STEEL

These are great for an outfit with blue accents as they help balance those bold colours.



CALF-LEATHER CLUTCH  
**BRAUN BÜFFEL**



CALF-LEATHER LOAFERS  
**GRAZIAT**



COTTON SHIRT  
**ARMANI COLLEZIONI**



## DRESS CODE



Wool-blend cardigan and merino waistcoat, both **Suitsupply**; cotton shirt, **Guess**; cotton trousers, **Brooks Brothers**; and calf-leather oxfords, **BOSS Men**



### CASUAL GET-TOGETHER

You don't always have to put on a suit and tie, especially when it's a cosy gathering of close friends. Pair tailored pieces with knitwear for a sharp look without appearing too casual. It's a trend we spotted on the runways of Dior Homme and Ermenegildo Zegna Couture.

The key to creating this broken suit is to pick out slouchier knitwear pieces, which help to break the clean tailoring lines. Thicker pieces work especially well, like the one shown here. Treat the knitwear like how you would a blazer and add a waistcoat to polish the look.

Keep details to a minimum. Opt for a banded collar shirt instead of the usual collared ones. We recommend rolling up the sleeves. It portrays a casual vibe and prevents the appearance of puffy sleeves caused by the thick knit.

### THE V WORD

Like a waistcoat, V-neck jumpers are good for layering over a shirt.



WOOL JUMPER  
**COS**



COTTON TROUSERS  
**CLUB MONACO**



CALF-LEATHER  
MONK STRAPS  
**PORSCHE DESIGN**



## DRESS CODE



### AFTER-OFFICE AFFAIR

Heading to a party after work? Then take a break from the usual dark suits and plain shirts. Trade them in for a brighter coloured suit and a chequered shirt that is just as appropriate for the office. Complete the look with a plain tie, which you can remove when happy hour approaches. Don't forget to loosen that collar, along with your attitude.

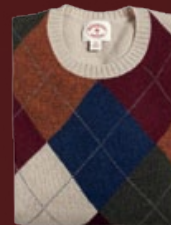
If there's no strict office dress code to worry about, a pair of white leather sneakers helps to blur the lines between looking professional and party-ready. Make sure they're spotless.

We've opted for a graphic jumper under the suit. It's a subdued take on the ugly Christmas sweater trend that creeps around during this time. A thin one is easy to pack in your bag and is a cheerful transition from boardroom sombre to office soiree.



### JOYFUL JUMPERS

Kick it back old school with a shirt under a colourful argyle jumper that is all kinds of dandy cool.



WOOL JUMPER  
BROOKS BROTHERS



CALF-LEATHER  
SNEAKERS  
COACH



COTTON SHIRT  
TOMMY HILFINGER

Wool-blend suit,  
**Armani Collezione**;  
merino jumper, **Paul  
Smith**; cotton shirt,  
**Suitsupply**; lapel  
pin, **Club Monaco**;  
and calf-leather  
sneakers, **Camper**

Hair+Grooming: **Wee  
Ming**  
Fashion Assistance:  
**Felix Woei**  
Model: **Stefan R/AVE**



# STYLE FILE

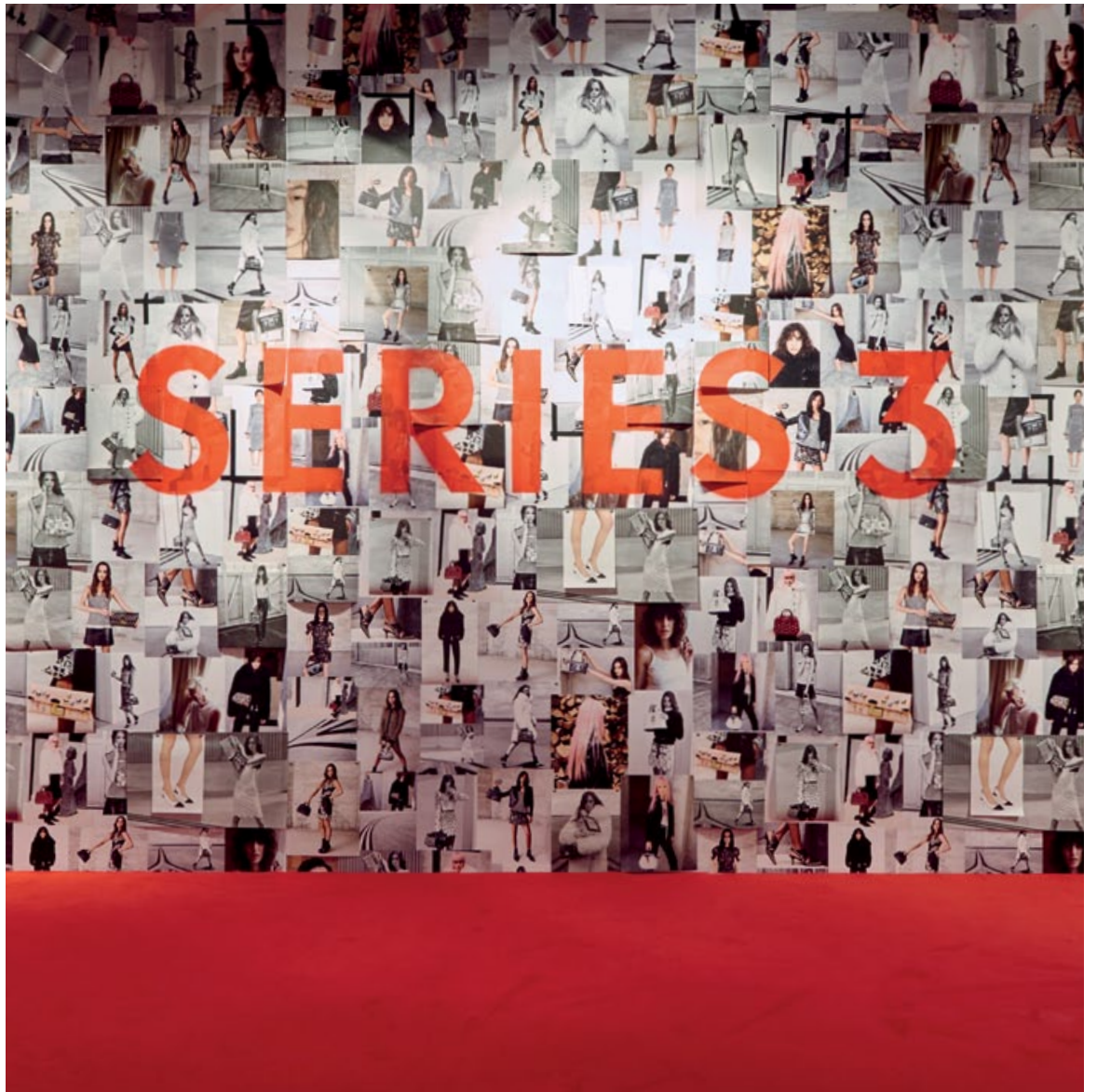
The latest news and snippets from the fast-paced world of fashion

WORDS ASRI JASMAN

## #LVSERIES3

Fresh off its showing in London, French luxury maison Louis Vuitton has brought the Louis Vuitton Series 3 to Singapore – the exhibition's first Asian stop. The third in a series of exhibitions that has been making its way through different cities around the world since 2014, it immerses visitors in the heady monogrammed world of Louis Vuitton. The show takes you through the many aspects and heritage of the brand, especially the inspiration behind Nicolas Ghesquière's autumn/winter 2015 women's collection. The exhibition opens daily from now until 23 December at the South Crystal Pavilion at The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands.

*South Crystal Pavilion, Marina Bay Sands*



## PUMA X BAPE

Puma adds another name to its extensive list of collaborations – A Bathing Ape, better known as BAPE. The Japanese street brand's iconic camouflage prints take centre stage as they are translated onto PUMA's sports performance apparel and footwear. The Puma X BAPE autumn/winter 2015 collection will only be available at Limited Edt stores at Marina Bay Sands, 313 Vault and Queensway from 12 December.

[puma.com](http://puma.com)



## FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

Japanese eyewear brand Owndays opens its 15th store in Singapore. Spanning 131 square metres, the new Marina Square store is its largest in Singapore and houses over 1,500 styles of frames and sunglasses for men and women. The store retains the same concept as the original. Customers can freely try on any pair of glasses and it only takes 20 minutes for prescription eyewear to be ready for collection upon purchase.

*02-21/22 Marina Square*



## BALLY SCHOOLS ON SHOES

Everything you've ever needed to know about shoes is now compiled in Bally's *Shoepedia* online platform. Get tips on how to care for and repair your shoes, as well as curated suggestions from the brand's social media followers. You also stand a chance to be featured when you tag your Bally footwear on Instagram.

[bally.com/shoepedia](http://bally.com/shoepedia)









# LAST DANCE

PHOTOGRAPHY **GAN** STYLING **CHIA WEI CHOONG**

**On him:** Calf-leather jacket, **Coach**; and polo T-shirt, **dunhill**

**On her:** Wool coat, **Louis Vuitton**; and wool jumper, **Brunello Cucinelli**









**On him:** Cotton shirt  
and cotton denim  
jeans, both **Gucci**

**On her:** Viscose-  
blend jacquard dress,  
**Etro**; and ponyhair  
bag, **Prada**





**On him:** Cotton-blend blazer, **Suitsupply**; and cotton shirt, **Dior Homme**

**On her:** Viscose top, **Salvatore Ferragamo**



Cotton-blend  
cropped polo T-shirt  
and calf-leather bag,  
both **Miu Miu**; and  
lurex skirt, **Gucci**









**On her:** Trench coat, Vivienne Westwood Gold Label; cotton-blend jumper, Brunello Cucinelli; vinyl skirt and calf-leather pumps, both Miu Miu

**On him:** Lamb-leather jacket and cotton T-shirt, both Brunello Cucinelli; cotton denim jeans and calf-leather derby, both Gucci







**On him:** Cotton shirt,  
**Gieves & Hawkes;**  
and wool trousers,  
**Dolce&Gabbana**

**On her:** Cotton  
velvet blazer,  
**Gieves & Hawkes;**  
and silk dress,  
**Dolce&Gabbana**



Cotton-blend blazer,  
**Suitsupply**; cotton-  
blend shirt, **Bottega  
Veneta**; and cotton  
trousers, **Brunello  
Cucinelli**

Hair: **Shaun Ang**  
at **Atelier Hair &  
Beauty** using **L'Oréal  
Professionnel**

Makeup: **Toni Tan** using  
make-up by **Chanel**

Fashion Assistance: **Asri  
Jasman** and **Felix Woei**

Location: **Rakes**

Models: **Jivago S/**  
**AVE** and **Marinet M/**  
Mannequin





## INSPIRATION



PHOTO JAYDEN TAN STYLING JASMINE HUANG

We're used to thinking of Christmas sweaters as god-awful things knitted by grandparents or store-bought, in thick wool and bearing some gaudy print of the holidays, be it Saint Nick or reindeer. Thank goodness Veronique Nichanian has a better sense of style. Using perforated leather as a base, she's made a leather holiday sweater we actually want.

*Sheep-leather perforated and embroidered jumper by Hermès, poa*



A WAY WITH WORDS

# EXPOSÉ

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HARRISON FORD / FOOD WASTAGE IN SINGAPORE / OUR PARA-ATHLETES / LUCY LIU

---

120

SCOTLAND,  
THROUGH ITS  
WHISKY

We tour the beautiful country in an experiential discovery of its varied whisky distilleries, from the Lowlands to Islay's famed peat bogs. Here's what we learnt

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# THE STORM TELLER

HARRISON FORD AND STAR WARS. SOME THINGS JUST NEVER GET OLD

WORDS LEONARD WONG PHOTOS ANTHONY MANDLER / CORBIS / CLICK PHOTOS



**[HAN SOLO]'S  
CERTAINLY A MUCH  
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INDIANA JONES. HE'S  
DUMB AS A STUMP**







## HARRISON FORD

**F**or years, Harrison Ford bemoaned his legacy as Han Solo in George Lucas' immensely popular *Star Wars* saga. There was no love lost between the actor and his interstellar alter ego and he has spent the last three decades generally disavowing his Solo self. Ford and Lucas often clashed on set and Harrison once griped to his boss, "You can type this shit, George, but you sure can't say it." Ford so hated Solo that he tried to persuade Lucas to kill off his character in *Return of the Jedi*. "He's certainly a much less interesting character than Indiana Jones. He's dumb as a stump," Ford sneered.

Dumb or not, audiences will have a chance to see an older and possibly wiser Han Solo in the upcoming *Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens*, directed by J.J. Abrams. Somehow Harrison Ford was persuaded to surrender to nostalgia and revisit the role alongside Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia), Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker) and many other old *Star Wars* characters in the latest addition to the successful film franchise.

Ford might have wanted to reconsider his decision after his leg was broken in an accident on the set of *The Force Awakens* in June last year. The injury required surgery to install metal plates into his leg while production was halted for eight weeks to allow Ford to recuperate. His fortunes continued to spiral downwards when he had to crash his vintage aircraft onto a golf course in Venice, California, in March. Ford suffered a concussion and sustained other relatively minor injuries.

Ford, 73, has since bounced back to health. He even agreed to grace this summer's Comic-Con in San Diego and his surprise appearance brought delight to the thousands of fans who turned out for a preview of the first of three new *Star Wars* installments.

Said Ford of his return to the fold, "It should have felt ridiculous! Here I was, doing something I did so long ago. But I will tell you that it felt great. I was proud and grateful to once again be involved."

When not indulging his passion for flying – he remains utterly fearless as a pilot despite several brushes with death – Ford lives in Los Angeles with his third wife, actress Calista Flockhart, 50, and their adopted 14-year-old son, Liam. Ford is currently preparing to shoot the sequel to *Blade Runner* (another film we are eagerly looking forward to) and is also reportedly returning to yet another iconic role, that of Indiana Jones, when shooting begins on the fifth chapter in the Spielberg-directed franchise. Ford's films have grossed over \$6 billion over the course of five decades.

**Mr Ford, you've enjoyed one of the most successful careers of any actor in the history of film. How gratifying is that to you?**

I'm not really concerned about my legacy as an actor. I'm all about right now and what's ahead. I don't really think much about the past, except that I do reflect on and understand the enormous luck that I've had. I've had a pretty good run.

**Is it hard to find roles that live up to the iconic characters that you have played in the past?**

I'm lucky that, from time to time, there's a good part for somebody of my relative age... where there are fewer opportunities to be the leading man. But that's okay. If something goes wrong on the set, I can tell people, "Hey, I just work here – ask that other guy over there." I'm quite happy to work a little bit less. Flying planes is what I do for fun. Acting is my job – otherwise there aren't many surprises left.



## HARRISON FORD



### **How important is it for you to keep on working?**

A real man should never rest on his laurels. He should prove his mettle every day of his life. And that has nothing to do with being macho, but with taking responsibility for yourself and your family.

With all my experiences, I have to say that I still struggle with a lot of the same problems and frustrations I've always had in life. But I do know how to better manage it all and approach problems and make my way through life with a little grace and honour.

### **What single quality has been responsible for the kind of success you've enjoyed in your career?**

The thing that makes me good at what I do, if I'm good at all, is not feeling special, not feeling different, so that whoever I'm talking to doesn't feel as if he's with someone who thinks he's on a higher plane because he happens to be in the film business.

### **But you must have some sense of your accomplishments as an actor?**

Yes, but I don't live in the past. My approach to life is that I'm all about right now and what's ahead. I don't really think much about the past, except that I do occasionally reflect on and appreciate the enormous luck that I've had.

I don't feel like a movie star when I'm on a set although I do use my standing to try to help make the best film possible. I feel I've done enough and learnt enough from the process to know what I'm doing and contribute to it.

And when I come home from work, I don't feel like a movie star, either.

It's a seamless process. You work, then you come home. You may have a few things to say to your son if you feel he's behaving rather oddly.

### **What kind of advice do you offer to your youngest son, Liam?**

Liam is my fifth time around at parenthood. I have five children and I can tell you that kids are forever. Part of the process of raising children is that you help them think their way through their life as much as you can and not tell them too much, not demand too much, but being there, supportive of them. And every time you do it, you get a little better at it.

### **When did you first realise that acting was something you wanted to do with your life?**

My father was in the advertising business and he produced and directed radio and television commercials. As a youngster, I was fascinated by Sky King (an American radio and television series), until I went to the studio one day with my dad and met a pudgy little man (actor Kirby Grant) who didn't fit my image of Sky King. That really piqued my interest in the whole show business industry.

### **But you went to college to study philosophy, as it turned out?**

Yes, I was a philosophy major and I wasn't doing very well. In an effort to try and find something in the course book that sounded like it was a cinch to help bring my grade point average up, I picked drama. (laughs)

Having failed to read the course description all the way through, I didn't realise it involved standing up on stage and acting. (laughs)

I was terrified at first, and that made me a little angry at myself, and so I was determined to get over that knee-knocking feeling of panic and develop some fearlessness.

Then when I did, I also found that what I was engaged in, with people trying to tell a story, was something that felt better than any other thing I'd ever done before. It felt like I had found some kind of purpose in being part of storytelling and finding an outlet to work with other people.

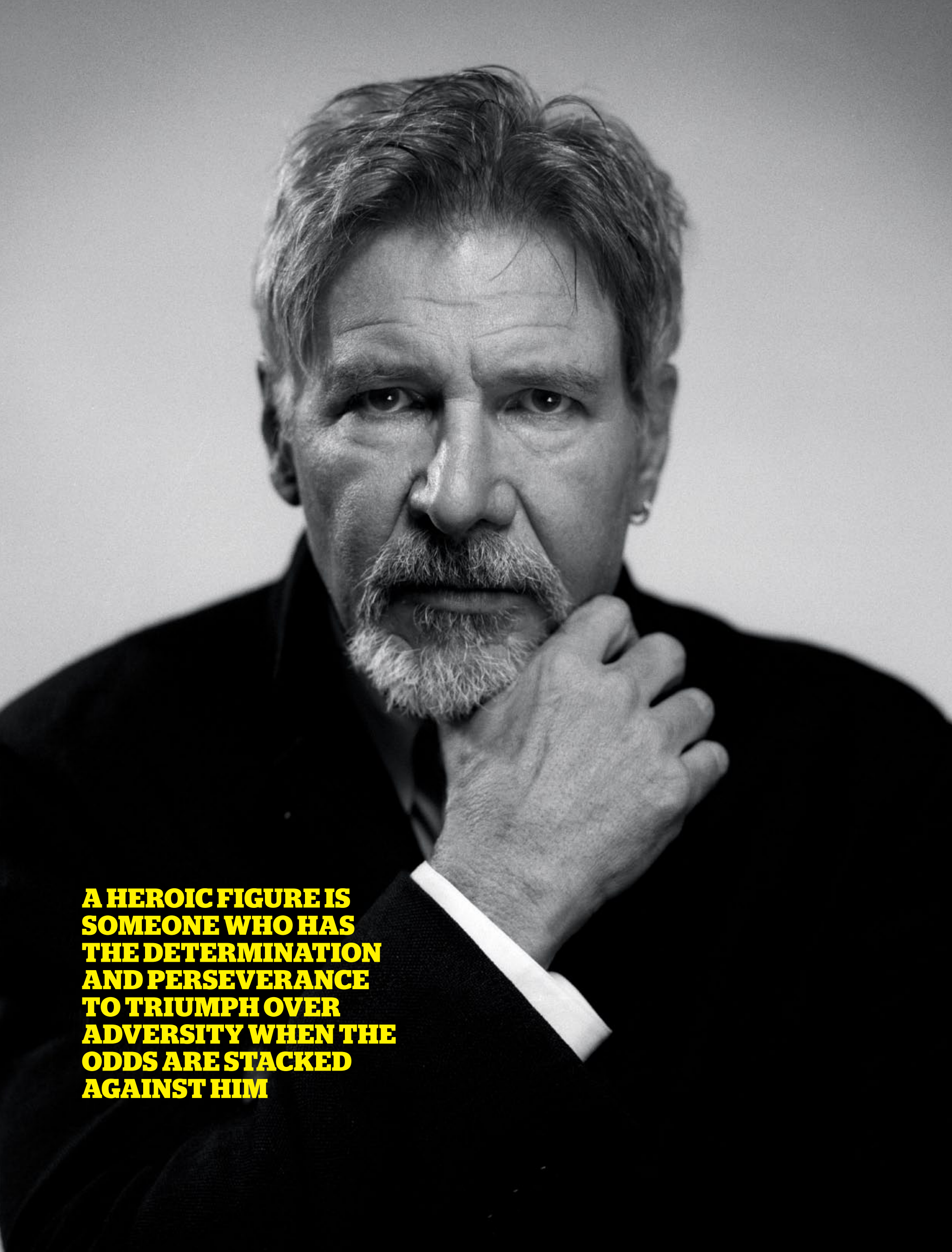
### **You tend to play heroic everyman kind of figures. Does that suit your nature?**

I don't know if I would describe very many of my roles as heroic. I think of them more as ordinary men who have remarkable levels of courage and character and yet, still have that little bit of vulnerability within them. He is someone who's had his share of pain or difficult times and yet, who can face up to challenges and overcome whatever obstacles stand in his way.

A heroic figure for me is someone who has the determination and perseverance to triumph over adversity when the odds are stacked against him and lesser men would have given up or fallen apart or died as the case may be.

Having said that, I like to imagine myself as having some of these qualities or aspirations and so that's the sort of character I like to play in the movies. 🗨





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FOOD WASTAGE

# SINS OF EXCESS

BENEATH THE GLITZY VENEER OF SINGAPORE'S  
SKYSCRAPERS LIE POVERTY, DESPAIR AND WASTE

WORDS FARHAN SHAH PHOTOS DOMINIC PHUA / DAYDREAM PHOTOGRAPHY

10%

That's the percentage of Singapore's population going hungry every day. When you consider that Singapore's unemployment rate hovers around two per cent, it makes the figure hard to swallow. There are people working hard to earn a living and yet still have to worry about putting food on the table.

1.3  
BILLION

That's tonnes for you. This is the amount of food wasted in the world every year. To put that number into perspective, that's one-third of the world's food production gone, just like that. Our excess results in others going hungry in the world.







Two years ago, Nichol Ng approached Cold Storage, part of the Dairy Farm group, to sound the supermarket out on the idea of donating its excess food products to The Food Bank Singapore. “The management told me straight to my face that it’s more expensive to donate the food to me than to dump it,” shared the chief food officer of the charitable organisation. The incredulity and anger was apparent on her face.

She told me about the times she had received huge containers of fresh salmon that were rejected by retailers simply because they were sliced wrongly and were thus of the wrong thickness, and bags of uncooked French fries that were deemed unsuitable because their lengths were not up to standard.

“NTUC FairPrice has a machine that removes leaves from a lettuce so long as the leaf has a mark on it. The whole leaf is perfectly fine save for that minor imperfection but the supermarket throws that leaf away anyway,” continued Ng. Unlike Cold Storage though, NTUC FairPrice has worked with The Food Bank Singapore before, donating the imperfect but edible leaves during a drive last year.

Before you raise your pitchforks and set your torches alight, understand that retailers behave this way because they have to deliver perfection to consumers, who expect nothing less.

Carrots have to be slender, orange and clean, even though they’re dug up from the ground. Bananas have to be unspotted and yellow. But black-spotted bananas are actually a sign that they’re ripe and ready to be eaten. It just goes to show that consumers have no idea where their food comes from and how they actually looks like, save for photos on the brochure.

Online supermarket RedMart has strict quality control measures in place because of these perceptions. A team in its warehouse segregates the food products into two piles – one that consumers can accept and one that consumers will likely reject. The latter pile can get rather big, which alarms Natasha Bandukwalla, an analyst with RedMart’s business improvement team. That’s why she, alongside her colleague Ferry Kluger, voluntarily approached The Food Bank Singapore to see if they could work together to donate the unused edible goods instead of throwing them away.

“I saw all these food products being thrown away because they couldn’t be sold, and at the back of my head, I knew that there are people who don’t have enough to eat. It made me want to do something about it,” shared Bandukwalla.

Ultimately, the both of them want to avoid food waste. “With our data-driven approach to commerce, we can make a lot of difference in this regard,” said Kluger.



FOOD WASTAGE



# 50KG

FOOD AN AVERAGE FAMILY  
IN SINGAPORE WASTES A  
MONTH, WHICH AMOUNTS  
TO ALL THE FOOD ITEMS  
PICTURED HERE





FOOD WASTAGE





FOOD WASTAGE



\$55

HOW MUCH A POOR FAMILY  
IN SINGAPORE SPENDS ON  
FOOD A MONTH, WHICH  
ONLY BUYS THEM THE ITEMS  
PICTURED HERE





## FOOD WASTAGE



### WE NEED A FOOD REVOLUTION

The average Singaporean consumer's lackadaisical attitude towards food waste is most apparent during buffets. We precariously pile as much food as possible on our plates, only to throw most of them away because we're too full. "We've observed that guests tend to take more food from the buffet than they can finish," shared Sylvia Low, senior manager for corporate responsibility at Hilton Asia Pacific. It's a sickening attitude, one shaped by affluence and self-centredness.

Everyone, from businesses to retailers to the man on the street, can do their part to reduce food waste. Last year, we threw away close to 800,000 tonnes of food. That's 800 million kilograms, or just over two million kilograms a day, which is approximately 30 per cent of our annual food imports and production. When you consider that Singapore imports more than 90 per cent of its food, you begin to realise that we're literally burning an insane amount of money away.

Fortunately, for every retailer who refuses to donate its excess food because it would impact the bottom-line, there are other businesses who want to help the hungry, simply because it's the right thing to do. Hilton Asia Pacific has started a trial with The Food Bank Singapore to donate its unfinished food from the buffets. The behemoth is also in the process of evolving its global business practices to reduce its impact on the environment, one of which is installing digesters and composting machines in its hotels all over the world.

NTUC FairPrice has embarked on a public education programme, teaching consumers that imperfect-looking items doesn't mean that they're inedible or spoilt. They've also quietly donated groceries to the needy through the Food from the Heart organisation.

McDonald's too once launched a food voucher programme when it noticed that customers were buying the meals and throwing them away just to get their hands on the promotional toys. Customers could donate the food vouchers to a charitable organisation and still get their hands on the desired toy products.

You don't have to be a business giant to be doing something about food waste. FLOR Patisserie is a small cake business with four outlets. Every day, it donates its unsold pastries to beneficiaries of The Food Bank Singapore. "We drive to a different location every day with about 30 to 40 cake slices. It does cost us money to drive around and donate the excess food and it does make more business sense to throw


the cakes away. But that doesn't make it right," opined Heidi Tan, the founder and head chef.

Baking lesser cakes is not an option due to the contracts it has signed with the shopping centres. Most malls require its food and beverage tenants to maintain a certain number of food products in its displays. According to Tan, the shops' displays normally have to be at least 50 per cent full two hours before the mall brings down its shutters. This is why food joints always have to resort to sharply marking down their items as the closing hour approaches. After all, it's always better to sell the products at cost price and recoup some money instead of throwing them away.

Ultimately, the businesses I talked to who are doing something about the food waste problem agree that it is about changing attitudes and educating consumers about food. "The disconnect between what people think foods supposedly look like and the actual images is very real. I would argue that it's even more apparent in Singapore because there is no widespread farming or anything of that sort here," said Kluger.

"Singaporeans do not know where their food comes from and that is a problem. My customers always expect a full display and get upset when their favourite cakes are sold out. Our children do not know how much food is wasted each day. We don't encourage recycling, reusing or reducing. We only encourage consumption. We have to start taking responsibility for our own waste instead of seeing it as someone else's problem to solve," chimed in Tan.

For Nichol Ng, the incredible amount of food wastage in Singapore infuriates her for a different reason and rightfully so – there are still people in the country who go hungry. For such an affluent nation, it is alarming that one out of 10 people here are food-insecure. And the other nine are dumping food away, not to mention the corporations who have closed their eyes and ears to the problem.

Ng wants people to stand up, make themselves heard and push these corporations to make changes. If altruism is not in your blood, Ng suggests that making a stand on food waste actually helps to lower the cost of food. "The price of food is tied to the way we plan our food resources. If we accept imperfections in our products and demand supermarkets to stock these, then it reduces the cost burden on suppliers and consequently, retailers. Everyone benefits." 



# ON THE WHISKY TRAIL

IF YOU'RE A WHISKY DRINKER WORTH YOUR BARLEY, YOU WOULD  
HAVE CONTEMPLATED HEADING TO SCOTLAND. HERE'S YOUR GUIDE

WORDS HANNAH CHOO + FARHAN SHAH

*AH SCOTLAND.* The land of Braveheart, kilts and that luscious golden brown liquid that turns boys into men, warms the cockles of your hearts and contributes close to £5 billion to the economy of the United Kingdom. Many whisky enthusiasts have made the pilgrimage to this beautiful Gaelic land comprising 790 island chains to live, breathe and drink their favourite drink straight from the source.

Whisky-wise, Scotland is divided into five regions, each producing whiskies that possess the characteristics of that area. The smallest, Campbeltown, is not highlighted on the map on the right because only three distilleries remain there. The area with the most distilleries, interestingly, is at Speyside. Why? Perhaps it's the air. Perhaps it's the water. No one knows. We reckon it's because rent is cheap. But that's where we started our trip.

Getting to Scotland, especially from Singapore, can be a tad tricky. Singapore Airlines doesn't offer a direct flight to Scotland; you'll have to tackle at least one transit, if not more, in a European country. Travelling around the island too isn't exactly as simple as following directions on a signpost. While the cities are easily navigated, the countryside roads can get rather confusing. Your best bet is to rent a car, stow an oil can or three, throw in an updated paper map of the country (mobile phone signals are iffy at best and non-existent at worst when you're out in the wilderness), and start driving.

You'll be blessed with incredible expansive views of nature, friendly locals who are more than happy to direct you to their local distilleries should you ever get lost and a trip of a lifetime. We took that trip, covering the four major whisky-producing regions in 14 days.

Here's our report, sans the drunken escapades.



## WHISKED AWAY







## DAY ONE & TWO

### Exploring Speyside

The easiest way to head to Speyside is through the Aberdeen airport. Two hours of driving and a few wrong turns later, I arrived at the recently refurbished The Craigellachie hotel ([craigellachiehotel.co.uk](http://craigellachiehotel.co.uk)). It's a cosy place, where room doors are opened using large golden keys instead of automated keycards and deer antlers hang above the warm crackling fireplace in the lobby. It's also the perfect spot to set off on the whisky trail, as it's situated just a couple of kilometres away from The Balvenie Distillery (Duff Town, Moray AB55 4BB), a 10-minute drive.

There were a lot of whisky enthusiasts staying in The Craigellachie as well, many of whom came prepared for the biting wind. Unfortunately, I wasn't as ready, only bringing along a simple wool blazer that was designed to make me look good in a bar, not fend off the chill. Lesson one: bring warm clothes.

So, that's what I did. I headed to The Quaich, on the first floor of the hotel. It's a famous local institution, packed with well over 700 bottles of whisky from all over the country, some of which can only be found at the bar itself. No fancy-sounding titles like mixologist or cocktail architect here. The lady helping the counter just wants to be known as the bartender and she whips up a mean Old Fashioned. I downed a few to warm my tummy and headed out to my first spot.



The Balvenie distillery is a throwback to a time when whiskies, and the stills that aged them, were made by hand. A tour of the distillery will set you back £35, but that's a small price to pay for the privilege of learning about the heritage of whisky and drinking the samples the Balvenie folks generously gave out. If you're lucky, you might even meet the legendary master blender David Stewart. The man with the cultured nose has been with the brand for more than 50 years and has won multiple whisky awards. He even developed the two-cask-maturation technique, now referred to as finishing and used everywhere.

He's semi-retired now but occasionally makes trips out to the distillery.

I was extremely lucky. Stewart and one of the Balvenie's ambassadors, David Mair, led the four-hour-long tour. It's quite the hands-on experience. You get to turn the barley with the malt shield, which aerates the grains so that they don't rot, and track the whisky-making process, as the barley becomes malt and is mashed, fermented, distilled and finally matured in casks. At every stage, Mair lets me sample the product. I could tell how each leg imparted a flavour characteristic, whether smell or taste, into the final product.

The highlight was entering the cool, dark warehouse where all the casks were stored. It was a fun experience to hunt down the cask that had my birth year on it. According to Stewart, the oldest cask The Balvenie has on the grounds of the distillery is an underproofed 1937. It's even older than Stewart and the Scotsman isn't sure where the cask is kept. I'm pretty sure he's lying. **FS**

### THE COOPER

**One of the most underrated people in the whisky making process, the cooper (top) is the person responsible for creating the cask, which infuses the whisky with flavours. Becoming a full-time cooper requires you to undergo a four-year apprenticeship followed by a hands-on test. Now that's dedication.**





## TOUR IT

If you think you're not up for a game of golf, take a £10 guided tour around the world's most famous golf course. Walk around the first, 17th and 18th holes, and get an insight into its history and landmarks. You'll get a complimentary Open 2015 Callaway golf ball.

## DAY THREE TO SIX

### Hitting the Highlands

There's hardly anyone on the road, as I drive through the never-ending roads of green. It's going to be a long ride, and like putting on a View-Master, I'm scrolling through sheep farm after sheep farm, hay roll after hay roll.

The hour passes and I've arrived at the Highlands, the land of rugged mountains and home to some of the mightiest malts around. Whisky here is big-bodied, and often spiked with peat and smoke. Unless you're on a sabbatical, it's impossible to cover the entire region in a short span of time. Climate matters, and it pays to dig deep into what the different territories of the Highlands can offer. The Northern Highlands exudes sweet, cereal-rich liquid, while the west drips heavily with great, powerful smoky liquid, but if you prefer yours fruity dry with a little extra oomph, head east towards Glen Garioch.

One of the oldest distilleries in Scotland, Glen Garioch (pronounced 'geery' in the ancient Doric dialect; Distillery Rd, Inverurie AB51 0ES) had gone through a slightly turbulent 200 years or more, since its founding in 1797. Founded by the Manson brothers who came from farming stock, it took several changes of hands and some tough trading before it smoked its last whisky.

In 1995, it closed for a while before opening its doors again in 1997 as a distillery that prides itself in producing a richly unctuous, unpeated single malt.

As it lies inconspicuously tucked away in the "Granary of Aberdeenshire", only precious amounts of whisky are produced at each go. Glen Garioch believed in quality, not quantity, but what goes into that prized liquid? They'll give you the rundown starting at just £7, so book in advance. Tour the premises from the distillery to the warehouse, and explore their individual cask bottling. Sip whisky by the dram in the Bothy tasting room, and should a drinking problem decide to surface, don't worry, The Alexander Clinic (drug and alcohol rehab) has your back. Their standard care treatment stops at six weeks.

Whisky is second nature and so is golf. Scotland is after all, the home of golf, and without the sport, their endless amount of vast land may go to waste. Golf may be incredibly boring to watch, but playing it is a whole different story. Book a couple nights at the Old Course Hotel ([oldcoursehotel.co.uk](http://oldcoursehotel.co.uk)) that overlooks the St Andrews Links, one of the oldest and finest courses in the world. Give it a go, even if you're not a golf fan. **HC**







## DAY SEVEN TO ELEVEN

Edinburgh and beyond

I was done hitting more flukes than birdies before I gave up and drove straight to Scotland's ancient capital. Edinburgh (it takes another couple hours). Try planning the trip around fall, when the city welcomes the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the largest arts fest in the world, from 5 to 29 August.

Even if you don't fancy the festive crowd, there's still a lot here to savour. Edinburgh is immensely packed with culture and intrigue. Experience the capital by taking a stroll through the grassy Meadows (a magnet for the sunbathers in the summer), catching a flick at the Cameo – a favourite of Quentin Tarantino – and having a chuckle at The Stand, where rising comedians practise new material. I needed at least three days. In fact, the more the better, and there's no better place to put up than at the last great Victorian railway hotel. Now known as the Balmoral (roccofortehotels.com), this prestigious place has a majestic clock that's a must-see.

After I make my last stroll through the Old Town and wave my last goodbyes, it was time to make my way west toward the Lowlands. Hungry for a bite, I stopped midway in industrial Glasgow, which is ironically Britain's only UNESCO City of Music. Partake in a Glasgow Music City Tour, and local musicians regale you with past stories of Bob Dylan and Russ Abbot.

While music runs in Scotland's blood, food does not. I would rather binge on its rich supply of seafood any day than on something funky whipped up in the kitchen. Still, I knew a visit to Scotland wouldn't be complete without trying its famous haggis. Little did I know, haggis is this brown, ugly mass of sheep guts, chopped to bits and ziplocked into a sheep's stomach. But it was too late to back out now.

At the Ubiquitous Chip (12 Ashton Lane, Glasgow, Lanarkshire G12 8SJ), a local's favourite, I stab the brown blob with my knife. The blob is warm, slippery and squidgy, and it's a challenge to spot the lung or heart from the bits. It's been boiled to a slightly rubbery, yet mealy texture, and I close my eyes before getting down and dirty with it. The Chip, as the locals fondly call, prepares theirs with venison. It may not sheep, but this is haggis we're talking about. One bite and I'm done.

It's official. I now hate haggis, and I need to get away from the dismembered blob. Then I hear the whisky calling, from the heart of Glasgow's theatre streets. 12 minutes later, I'm at The Pot Still (154 Hope St, Glasgow G2 2TH), where drinks begin pouring out at 11am. All lovers of good Scotch regularly flock here to sink into the impressive library of whisky this little pub has.

After three drams and a haggis-free pie, my stomach is finally happy. I now migrate to the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, a habitat created in 2002 to safeguard the nature. In the summer, the rivers and lochs are at their warmest, a great time to plunge in for an outdoor swim. If you prefer remaining dry, ride a horse or hike through land scattered with badgers and hedgehogs. Alternatively, rent a bicycle and camp overnight by the lake. That's what I did. **HC**



## BENEATH THE GROUND

**Although Prince Street Gardens is now a popular spot to bask in the sun on a good day, it was once a body of water known as Nor Loch. Choked with sewage, it was likely a water cemetery of 300 witch trials. Women who were suspected of witchcraft were thrown into the water to drown.**



## BEHIND THE DOORS

The folks at Auchentoshan will be happy to open its doors to you outside opening hours. Pay £200 on top of the cost of your choice tour, and you will be the only visitors to roam the distillery. The guides are straight shooters, so your money's well spent here.



## DAY TWELVE

### Exploring the Lowlands

Loch Lomond is wonderful, and while I angle for freshwater trout, I've forgotten my main purpose of straying into Lowland territory. Home to Scotland's most delicate and restrained malts, the Lowlands map a smaller domain of four surviving distilleries, including Auchentoshan (By Dalmuir, Clydebank G81 4SJ), one that has been operating since 1823.

You'll find it right outside the fringes of Glasgow, and it is unfortunate that every day, thousands of motorists drive past without a second glance. Whisky lovers who prefer non-smoky drinks will enjoy its product. Given its light demeanour and body that's nary a peat, this is a brilliant liquid that's been triple distilled, resulting in a glossy, silky finish. It is no wonder why people imagine it as breakfast whisky. Whisky and pancakes? I think we're on to something great here.

A small herd of cattle usually guards the fort at the front as you drive down a slight slope to the distillery.

The premises are clean, modern and minimal, and dozens are here to investigate Scotland's only triple distilled whisky. What gives? Everyone else only does it twice.

It's all in the parameters of science. You have to know how to determine the percentage of alcohol, pH levels for acidity, and perform gas or liquid chromatography to map the chemical body of malts thoroughly. I met the master blender Rachel Barrie, whose chemical prowess provides the very fingerprint of Auchentoshan whisky.

As I sample whisky straight from the casks, I wonder whether the barley used is genetically modified in any way. Like how vegetables laden with pesticides exude a bitter aftertaste, GM crops ruin flavour. Although this isn't evident in the spirit, I had to know. Turns out, it isn't. What's more assuring is that Scotland is planning to ban GM crops from being grown in the country. Whisky now has an even brighter future. **HC**





## DAY THIRTEEN

Fly to Islay

There are a few ways to travel to the beautiful island of Islay (pronounced EYE-lə), facing the west of Glasgow. By car, it takes 2.5 hours to get to the Kennacraig ferry terminal. From there, you can take the MV Hebridean Isles or MV Isle of Arran to Islay. A daily bus service operated by Scottish Citylink also connects you to the ferry terminal.

The snappiest way is, of course, by air. Flybe, a budget propeller airplane, gets you there in 45 minutes. But there's a catch – it isn't exactly run by the most efficient people. I remember wasting a good few hours away at the airport before I was in the air. People call it 'Fly-maybe'. I wonder why.

Spring is often a wonderful time for Islay, as the people bask in its generous share of sunshine and clear skies. The summers aren't brutal either, with the days rising to maximum temperatures of 16°C on average. However, getting slapped in the face with blistery gusts of cold wind is not uncommon. The south-westerly winds are a pain in the neck, especially when they make landing an airplane a tricky affair. Unfortunately for you, the Flybe jet only has enough fuel for a few tries, and if by the third landing the wind fails to rest, it's back to depressing Glasgow.

Luckily for me, it's taken only one try to make that landing in Islay. I arrive at its little airport, where all there is is a small luggage belt and several glass shelves of whisky.

I step out and stick my nose in the air. Everything about this island is whisky, from the salty sea breeze to the castaway grain of barley. This is a world unspoiled by the lazy ways of modernity, an ancient Shangri-La of fog, smoke and mystery. The distilleries throb with living pot stills and the precious distilled vapour of malt, peat and yeast.

Michael Jackson, the author of *Whiskey: The Definitive World Guide*, once wrote, "As you explore, you can see how it compresses its secrets into tight parcels: dune-fringed beaches, remote hills, cliffs, caves, peat bogs, standing stones, lost parliaments, abandoned townships and Celtic memories.

"It is a tapestry of geographical and historical treasures through which whiskey runs like a golden thread."

A place rich in legend and shrouded in myth. This is what makes Islay different.

First inhabited around 7,500BC by early hunter gatherers, the island was once home to the mighty Lords of the Isles.

Today, it is a mecca of eight working distilleries, including a couple that slumbered for years before they were reawakened. Each is unique, but Bowmore (School St, Bowmore, Isle Of Islay PA43 7JS) claims to be the first recorded distillery on the island.

The building stands right beside the Atlantic Ocean and is often sprayed by the crashing of sea water. Its constant companion is the salty sea air, which explains why in tasting sessions, you'll hear people talking of the ocean spray, seaweed, shellfish and everything in between. Coastal characters are not uncommon in Bowmore whisky, such as the Peat Smoked Herring and Smoke on the Sea Shore.

It is a romantic and long accepted view that coastal whiskies tend to adopt the salty aspect during maturation by the sea shore. The whisky can't escape the salty sea air, as it rests in the casks. It is this cold damp air and saltiness that make the conditions within the No. One Vaults ideal. **HC**

### STAY AT THE BRIDGEND HOTEL

**Enter into an embrace with the lovely welcome from Lorna the manager, and step into one of their comfortable country-style rooms. From breakfast to the heated towel rails, everything is meticulously thought out. You won't regret staying here.**  
**[bridgend-hotel.com](http://bridgend-hotel.com)**





## RENT A CAR

There's limited transport on the island, and even though the few taxis they have are great as professional tour guides, you're better off renting a car. Book a ride with Islay Car Hire or D&N MacKenzie, and you'll have a car the moment you disembark from the plane. Have fun exploring.

## DAY FOURTEEN

Explore a little more and leave

A mild climate and rich peaty soil are the ideal conditions for a solid Islay whisky. Responsible for the complex smokiness in the whisky, peat is a composition of decayed and concentrated organic matter that originate from seashore funk, dead fish and more. In other words, even an unpeated Islay whisky could exhale the fresh aroma of a sea breeze.

Bowmore burns its hand-cut peat from the Laggan Moss peat bank until the air temperature above the kiln bed rises up to 70°C. It is burned for 15 hours until a distinctive smokiness is achieved. At Laphroaig (Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, Argyll and Bute PA42 7DU), they hand-cut the peat too. The peat logs are then left to dry for three months, before getting stored in the shed. Again, peat in Islay is quite different from that of mainland Scotland, contributing to Laphroaig's earthy and medicinal flavour. Mainland peat is wood-based, which makes the whisky less complex.

Besides peat, the most important component of whisky is the water source. Laphroaig collects its supply from the Kilbride Stream, a reservoir where five million gallons of water are reserved to be used all year round. 15 per cent of the flavour of the



whisky comes from the water supply, so it's crucial to have nice and soft peaty water to keep the flavour profiles in.

There's a lot more that goes into this prized liquid – the malting floors, the mash house, the stills and the cooperage. A basic distillery tour at Laphroaig begins at £6, which gets you a sample of whisky and a commemorative glass. To get most out of your trip, I'd suggest going for the 'water to whisky experience' tour (£85; limited to eight participants). Slip into the pair of wellington boots provided and take a walk through the peat cutting process, the water source and the warehouse. A picnic lunch will also be provided.

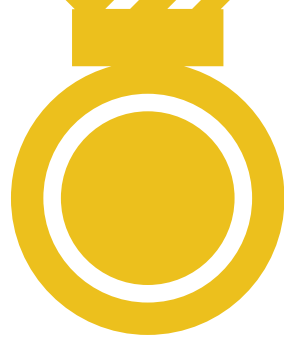
Bowmore private tours are a lot cheaper, at

£12 a person. Ask for the distillery manager, Eddie MacAffer, who began his days working in the warehouses since 1966, and you won't nod off in the stillhouse.

It's my last day, and after scouring both distilleries, my motto is to always end any journey off with a good meal. The island isn't packed with incredible restaurants, and you might end up on a lousy diet of soup and sandwiches throughout. (Trust me, it gets to you.) Right across the street from the Bowmore Distillery, facing Loch Indaal is the Harbour Inn, where I have lobsters and the best oysters ever. I'm onto my fifth slippery bivalve as I watch the sun dreamily set over an island I'd love to call home. **HC**



WARRIORS



THE PARA-ATHLETES

# ONLY THE BRAVE

PHYSICAL DISABILITY OFTEN SPELLS A LIFE OF  
SUBSISTENCE. THESE MEN CHOSE OTHERWISE

AS TOLD TO SEAN MOSSADEG + FARHAN SHAH PHOTOS GT GAN STYLING ASRI JASMAN

*NO, THIS IS NOT YOUR TYPICAL INSPIRING STORY* of men, whose life had been ripped from the inside out, who have had to pick themselves up from the bottom, and who through sheer determination have managed to climb to the top. This is the story of five men – some married with children, others single and available, all holding jobs – who don't want to be recognised for their disabilities or given a break because they're lacking a limb or two.

Beyond that commonality, these men are also chasing a golden dream. They're training for the ASEAN Para Games 2015 happening in December and subsequently, the Rio 2016 Paralympics. The intense gaze in their eyes do little to hide their immense drive to excel. They don't want their achievements to be discoloured or elevated simply because they're disadvantaged. They never had a choice about their physiques, but they made the choice to shine in spite of it, displaying a courage not many men possess.





Training shorts,  
Teck Hua's own

I HAVE A CAREER. I DRIVE  
A CAR. I RIDE A BIKE. I  
HAVE A FAMILY AND A  
BEAUTIFUL HOME. I FOCUS  
ON WHAT I CAN ACHIEVE  
RATHER THAN WHAT I CAN'T  
BECAUSE THAT'S THE ONLY  
MINDSET THAT CAN GET YOU  
THROUGH LIFE



LIEU TECK HUA, 35  
ATHLETICS (SPRINTING)

**In 2004, I was knocked down by a car while riding a motorcycle.** I remember asking the doctor how long it would be before I could run again as I was a regular in the army and he said that should be the last thing on my mind because it was necessary to amputate my leg.

**The doctors had to get my permission to ampute.** I refused to give it and they had to operate several times to try to save the leg. I was in denial, pretending that I could feel and pass their tests but I gave up when I finally realised they were right.

**I learnt to walk well in a prosthetic leg in less than a year.** My top priority was to get my life back to normal but running was something I never thought I could do. I only got my first running leg three years ago.

**Running became a personal challenge.** Because it was something so distant, I wanted to achieve it. Also, Singapore has a lot of swimmers and we're under-represented in athletics.





**CHOO POH CHOON, 34**  
WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

**A two-metre branch fell on me.** I was in the Brunei jungles. The branch landed on my back and shattered my spine. I was 19.

**Initially, I was happy.** I thought I could downgrade my PES status. Then I was told that I only had a two per cent chance of walking again. I was devastated.

**I started playing basketball in 2002.** The game really helped me. I thought I could not be as active as before because I was in a wheelchair but I was wrong. My team were also of great help because they had gone through what I was experiencing back then.

**Many of my teammates are old.** I've played with them for the last decade. This is probably their last Games and they want to make Singapore proud.

OUR WHEELCHAIRS  
ARE SPECIALLY  
MADE FOR THE  
GAME. THEY COST  
BETWEEN \$3,000  
AND \$4,000

Wool blend vest  
sustainable for  
and wool blend  
housers all over





Cotton jumper,  
**H&M**; shorts  
and sneakers,  
Kalai's own

OPPOSITE  
Polyester gilet,  
**Calvin Klein**;  
and cotton-blend  
sweat pants,  
**BLACKBARRETT**  
by Neil Barrett

I WANT TO BE  
RECOGNISED AS AN  
ATHLETE, WITHOUT THE  
“PARA” PREFIX. **I TRAIN  
AS HARD AND SPEND  
AS MUCH AS AN ABLE-  
BODIED ATHLETE.** WE  
ARE NOT DOING THIS FOR  
RECREATION. WE ARE DOING  
THIS TO COMPETE



**KALAI VANAN, 56**  
POWERLIFTER

**At 22, the doctors found that my knee muscles were wasting away.** I was in the military at the time. A biopsy was performed and the result confirmed that my leg had to be amputated. I was fine with going through it but my mother stopped me. I only amputated it seven years later.

**After I lost my leg, I had to sell flowers on the streets.** The military did not prepare me for life outside the army gates. Eventually, I became an insurance agent and did well. Then I moved to personal training.

**It's good that I'm a coward.** It stopped me from jumping out the window. God knows I've looked out of that window many times, wanting to end my life. I also thought of the people around me – my wife and kids.

**I train four times a week, two-and-a-half hours each time.** I bench 155kg now but I'm aiming to do 170kg at the Games. That's five kilograms more than the Rio 2016 qualifying mark. I actually only started this sport in February this year. A friend suggested I gave it a try, so here I am.





**JOVIN TAN, 29**  
SAILING

**I started sailing when I was 15.** It was really just an outing arranged by the Singapore Disability Sports Council but I saw it as a form of escape from home. My dad never accepted my disability.

**To this day, I still can't swim** because of my disability. The first time I sailed, I was terrified. Over time, I got over the phobia. All I think about now when I am sailing is taking the lead from whoever is in front and maintaining the lead when I'm the guy at the front.

**The first time I represented Singapore** in the sport overseas gave me a lot of motivation. I found I was able to do much more than I thought was possible. I just needed more time and effort. Earning a silver medal just made me more motivated to keep besting myself.

**Being a national athlete to me** is just about pursuing your dreams to a different level. Between you and I, we're not that different – I still have a daily job and have to juggle work and life.

Wool-blend jumper,  
**H&M**; and denim jeans,  
**BLACKBARRETT** by  
Neil Barrett

OPPOSITE  
Cotton-blend jumper and  
denim jeans, both **H&M**

Hair: **Ashloi at Atelier  
Hair & Beauty** using  
**Sebastian Professional**  
Makeup: **Angel Gwee**  
using **Yves Saint  
Laurent Beauté**





PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES GO THROUGH A STAGE OF LOW SELF-ESTEEM. **YOU NEED TO LEAVE YOUR COMFORT ZONE, PURSUE YOUR PASSION,** BE IT SPORTS OR ART. THAT'S HOW YOU GROW CONFIDENCE



**TAY WEI MING, 27**  
BADMINTON

**I was born with Erb's Palsy, a condition that affects my right arm.** My father introduced me to badminton when I was nine. Most other sports needed both hands but badminton required me to use just one.

**I thought to myself,** "If I've been playing this for so long, I might as well get something out of it," so I got serious about badminton and finally turned professional in 2008 when I represented Singapore.

**Passion and opportunity motivate me.** Passion for the sport pushes me further. I also relish the opportunity to represent the people around me as well as to meet new people in the form of coaches and teammates.

**I hope that society will see para-athletes the way they see normal athletes.** We all have to overcome odds as people and sportsmen.



# LEADING POSITION

## LUCY LIU SPEAKS ABOUT PLAYING A FEMALE WATSON AND TAKING THINGS EASY

INTERVIEW BY **RTL CBS ASIA ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK** PHOTOS **BRIAN BOWEN SMITH / AUGUST IMAGE / CLICK PHOTOS**  
STYLING **ARGY KOUTSOTHANASIS** HAIR **CREIGHTON BOWMAN** MAKE-UP **CHRISTIAN MCCULLOCH**

**Y**ou may not have realised it, but a couple of seasons after *Sherlock*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman, was introduced on BBC, CBS came up with its own edition of the genius detective's adventures. But naturally, since it's Hollywood, which needs the dramatic environs of "broken but not beaten" and self-improvement, the producers went with a particular period of Doyle's brilliant crimefighter deep in rehabilitation and recovering.

It's not a common episode of Sherlock Holmes that the average Joe is familiar with, but creator Rob Doherty wasn't interested in a mainstream Sherlock and Watson duo. He casted Jonny Lee Miller as Sherlock and, in a genius twist, brought in Lucy Liu as Joan Watson.

As opposed to the BBC's posh portrayal of Sherlock, *Elementary* sees a down-to-earth Holmes crawling his way back from the metaphorical dumps. Watson, however, as a female, makes one wonder if Hollywood is once again succumbing to standard glass ceiling behaviour by making Liu a companion figure, until she starts to take the lead on a regular basis. There's also a friendship with virtually no amorousness in their interactions. Lucy Liu isn't there to play the pretty lover partner of Holmes. She tells us what's coming up in the next season.

### **Before you embarked on *Elementary*, were you already a fan of Sherlock Holmes?**

I knew about Sherlock Holmes, but I didn't grow up reading the stories. Once I started doing the show, I started reading the short stories and I really fell in love with them. It wasn't something that I initially knew about, aside from just hearing catchphrases like "you're no Sherlock Holmes" or "oh, aren't you a Sherlock Holmes?"

### **What do you find interesting about your role as Watson?**

I love the relationship that she has with Holmes. Watson and Holmes have wonderful dynamics that are shown very deeply in the novels and the short stories really showed the connection between the two of

them. While they've had many interesting cases, their relationship is the core foundation of the show and that is developed over time. Because she started as a sober companion, there was more of an emotional connection before they became detectives together. I think that's what drew me into the show the most.

### **What is your approach when changing Watson's character into female?**

I didn't have to do very much. To me, it's all inherent in the writing and Rob Doherty transcribed it all flawlessly even though the character was male in the original books. His idea was that Holmes was uncomfortable with women in general, and he thought it'd be interesting if he had a female partner that he has to be around all the time. It's the idea of wearing an uncomfortable sweater all the time that was a little bit itchy but you have to have it on. That was sort of how Watson as a woman was very important, but not altogether something he would necessarily want to put on on a regular basis.

### **After a few seasons of being Sherlock Holmes' partner, how has the relationship between the two characters developed?**

We started out as sober companions, and as we progressed, Watson became his partner and then a detective. They're still partners but their friendship has deepened quite a bit. We're introducing Holmes' father in the fourth season, and you see the dynamics between Sherlock and his father, and how Joan steps in as protector and defender in a very different manner. It's an emotional relationship more than a work one, which is how it transformed from seasons one to four.

### **As an actress playing a male-based character, do you think that the dynamics between the two characters would've been different if Dr Watson was a man?**

When men form relationships with one another, they just have this brotherhood, this camaraderie, and I think we've developed that. Rob has done a really wonderful job in writing that into the story.











IF YOU PUSH FORWARD, NOT EVERYONE IS  
GOING TO AGREE WITH YOU. BUT WHEN  
YOU MOVE FORWARD, EVENTUALLY  
EVERYONE ELSE WILL CATCH UP

**Why do you think there is a revisit in classic stories like Sherlock Holmes in television shows recently?**

I think when Arthur Conan Doyle wrote the story and the character, he was so colourful and dynamic. There were many different facets about Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson that were interesting. You generate so many ideas that you never run out. For each writer, in any media, it's an endless amount of material that you can draw from. In this case, [Rob] took something from a story where he does a lot of opium and drugs. That was the basis for this particular Sherlock. There are so many incarnations of Sherlock because the material was written in the 1800s. It kind of made it part of something so historic, something embedded in literature. Take Watson, how we've brought that to modern day and made her an Asian woman. It's brilliant.

**What has surprised the team most about how the show has developed?**

What has been so amazing is the cast and characters that we continue to bring in. So many wonderful guest stars that you never would've imagined. I have so many people I admire who come onto the show. I remember bumping into Steve Martin, and he said that he and his wife watch every episode. I was so surprised. This is the longest running show that I've done in which I'm one of the leads. You develop a strong relationship with the people you work with. You become this family. You really grow from that.

**You've directed *Elementary* for the second time. What lessons have you learnt about directing and how has it changed your acting approach?**

Directing is a whole different ball game, and it sort of takes what you do and extend it ten-fold or hundred-fold. You're behind the scenes, you really see how everything works, all the mechanisms. I feel like when I'm interacting, I'm a part of a giant painting where everyone is a different colour and you mash them together and you connect them to create a beautiful work. I love being really intimate with the crew, getting to know them and creating something together. You're directing a group of really talented and creative people. I found that my life has changed significantly after directing because it helps me see things in a very different way.

**Watson tends to solve cases independently every now and then without Holmes. Will we have more of that?**

We have a lot of storylines where Watson has her own mysteries that she solves. Sometimes we try to do different things. I know that for a while, she has her own cases and agency. Now that they're connected, they still have things that they do together, but they also do a lot of things separately. You'll see that in the next season.

**What are the challenges that you've encountered playing this role?**

For me, Watson is a very patient, open and aware person. Sometimes the filming process can be slower than I like because I was so used to doing action, or something that is very fast, running around. I have to

be comfortable being in that space and not rushing it. She's taught me a great deal about how to be patient and to let things come to you instead of being so active all the time.

**Who are your favourite fictional characters that you would like to see on screen?**

There're so many I grew up watching – Charlie Brown, *Get Smart*. Everything is sort of a reincarnation of that. A lot of material from the original is now being redone. Shows like *Star Trek* or *Star Wars* are being regenerated. I think there're some untapped things we can find in other cultures, like in Asia. There're so many beautiful stories that we could retell.

**What was it like to work with John Noble?**

John Noble is just an absolute gentleman. He is so sweet and kind, and the complete opposite of all of the characters he plays who are really twisted and dark. I have had the honour of working with him on a few scenes featuring just the two of us and I adore him. He is such a huge asset to the show and I hope he can stay on longer.

**Holmes had a relapse at the end of season three. Can we expect Watson to help him out again like in season one? What can we look forward to in this season?**

Watson is not going to be anything more than a friend to him. She's not going to be his sober companion and you are not going to see her work with him in that capacity. Rob has made that very clear. She is going to be supporting him emotionally but not engaging him in that manner. It changes the dynamics of how their relationship is perceived in season four. He's going to rely on other people for that, and they're going to have much more of a friendship rather than that kind of companionship regarding being sober.

**Your character is completely off the wall compared to the traditional Watson. You're a woman. You're Asian. You're American. What do you think of your portrayal and how the show has managed to transcend the gender issue?**

For me, I don't think about how to transcend something. The act of doing is a more powerful thing. Only when you act do you succeed in understanding how you move forward – in life, in gender, in race, in age, in creativity, in style, in anything.

People always say "you're so fashion forward", or "you're so forward thinking". The key word is forward. If you push forward, that's what's going to happen. Not everyone is going to agree with you. But when you move forward, eventually everyone else will catch up.

We live in a very culturally mixed society, and I think that entertainment has to catch up to what we're doing. It should reflect the reality of how we live. So I try not to pay a lot of attention to it. If you hit it on the head too hard, it becomes an issue but when you live by experience and example, it becomes reality as opposed to focusing on trying to put it on a billboard all the time. You should draw attention to the creative aspect of it rather than the political. In this particular case, the entertainment value does not have a political slant to it. 🍷





**AUGUSTMAN**

# WHAT WE WANT 2015

The stuff that's currently out on markets we're craving. Oh, and stuff that you might want to get for your other half as well. Plus, Find out how to win one of these great gifts for yourself at [augustman.com/contests](http://augustman.com/contests)

WORDS **DARREN HO** PHOTOS **SIMON SIM** STYLING **JASMINE HUANG + ASRI JASMAN**





### **AN EQUAL FOR HER**

The corporate glass ceiling might not be breached for the fairer sex as yet, but Zenith is hands-on for equality. The El Primero Chronomaster 1969 comes with equivalent performance for the ladies, with a polished mother-of-pearl dial, the same movement within and exposed escapement. Plus, diamonds on the bezel for beautification.

*Zenith El Primero Chronomaster Lady in stainless steel with diamond-set bezel and alligator leather strap, \$16,100*



### **FIRST UP**

The El Primero is unmistakable for its style and function. This Chronomaster 1969 brings back memories of the first El Primero with its classic colours in play and the exposed silicon escape wheel and lever for open admiration. Cool and still sexy, plus it contains the fast-running 5Hz El Primero movement within for precise timekeeping.

*Zenith El Primero Chronomaster 1969 in stainless steel with alligator leather strap, \$13,500*



## **FUR OUR SAKE**

Shearling has been a core part of Coach's range of accessories for the winter season this year. The soft, cozy wool texture may be too warm for the tropics all year round, but on an accessory such as an iPad case or backpack, it's definitely welcome. Creative director Stuart Vevers has dressed up various products from footwear to leather portfolios with shearling, a touch of comfort.

*Coach Shearling Tech Case, \$315*







### **AMERICAN LEATHER**

Wallets have gone the full circle, from big and chunky to thin patent leather types, virtually invisible in the 2000s and now we seem to be packing them full of stuff once more. These well-compartmentalised billfolds will have you packing in everything you need for the day.

*Coach Varsity Stripe Compact ID Wallet, \$425*



### **TAG IT WELL**

Luggage tags may have been designed for well, labelling luggage bags, but these days they make for an interesting bag accessory, available in various shades and shapes. Whether it's a briefcase, a tote or messenger or an actual luggage bag, add some style flavour to yours with these trendy options from Coach.

*Coach Luggage Tag in Refined Pebble Leather, \$90*

### **GOING FREEHAND**

You're looking for a guilt-free purchase for yourself (that you can also tell your other half they can use). These beautifully tanned, calf leather portfolios in two tones will definitely do it. An alternative in pebble leather is also available, with a slip pocket outside for miscellaneous objects.

*Coach Tech Envelope in Sport Calf Leather, \$195*



## INTO THE WILD

Best known for its alpine-inspired products, Napapijri's casually styled line of clothing are luxuriously made with fine materials. However, they aren't only designed for the frozen tundra. In the confines of our potent air-conditioned offices, a fleece zip-up would do nicely.

*Napapijri zip-up fleece jacket, \$329*

## COMFORT FIRST

Napapijri's products are first of all comfortable, with solid designs behind each product. The button-fly denim jeans in a standard regular cut are a great example, well-fitted and slightly tapered without looking like skin-tight skinny jeans and in a variety of washes from dark indigo to faded vintage looks that look like they've been run in and properly worn.

*Napapijri Lund denim jeans, \$239*





## SAINT NICK'S HOME

Giving it a bit of a Christmassy feel, without overdoing the bit is the fleece overcoat that's lined in shearling wool and ideally suited if you were heading to one of the ice hotels in the northern latitudes for a winter's stay. Trimmed with leather and delivered in a checked pattern, this is a beautiful cold weather option.

*Napapijri fleece coat, \$839*





### **CRAFTED BY HAND**

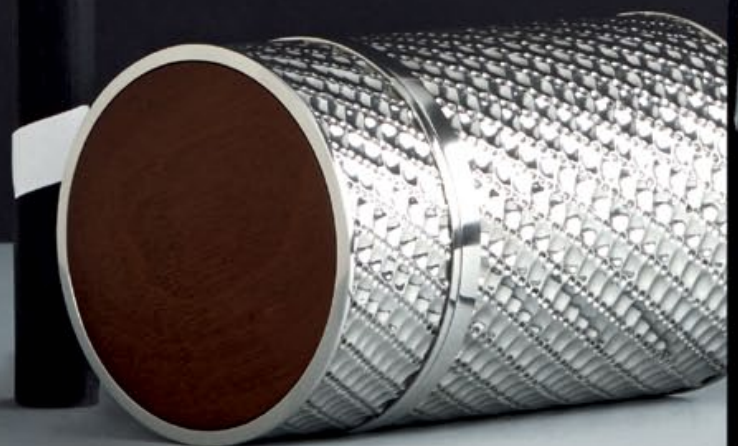
Pewter is a fascinating material because of its nature: relatively pliable, beautiful surface finish and thermal conductivity. That makes it an excellent choice for holding liquids, whether hot or cold, and in our case, a handsome beer mug. The 8515 Tankard here is hammered by hand to deliver an uneven texture on the body that plays with the light reflected on it, while the cover and handles are in a polished finish.

*Royal Selangor 8515 Tankard, \$220*

### **TEA FOR THREE**

The 8515 collection explores the use of textures in various ways on pewter to deliver a different take on the material, and the punching and hammering executions here offer a playful style. This airtight tea caddy is excellent for keeping items fresh, be it tea leaves or some other material to seal from its surroundings.

*Royal Selangor 8515 Tea Caddy, \$410*





## TECH MADE EASY

This is the ideal present for someone who regularly misplaces phones. In a luscious red for Christmas, the ZenPad C 7.0, with its slim rounded edges, comes with a plethora of functions – dual SIM capabilities, professional entertainment features, a great camera – and it's super lightweight.

*ASUS ZenPad C 7.0 in red, \$199*



## SMART WARE

Welcome the new ZenWatch2, available in two sizes. The soft rectangular case has interchangeable straps, stylised watch faces and does everything a personalised smart watch needs to. Plus it can be paired with both iOS and Android and has a battery life of two days.

*ASUS ZenWatch 2, \$229*



## A WINDOWS LAPTOP YOU WANT

Windows 10 is great as an operating system, even for Mac-familiar operatives such as us. But Windows laptops typically look rather unexciting. The new lightweight Zenbooks are sexy, however, with impressive performance and sleek designs that reek of style, especially this exclusive rose gold number.

*ASUS ZenBook UX305, from \$1,298 onwards*







## **SERIOUS SHAVERS**

If smart shaving technology is anything to go by, we're about a hair's breadth away from laser-assisted shaving or automated operations. Phillips' latest is the Series 9000, with paramount functions such as an automated self-cleaning and lubricating function to ensure your next shave is smooth.





## **SERIES 9000**

The cordless shaver has a rechargeable battery within that lasts for 50 minutes, ample if you're away on a work trip without needing to bring the charger along (it comes with a convenient travel case). For beard-wearers, a smart trimmer can be swapped out to keep you out of Shaggy beard zone.

*Phillips Series 9000 shaver in black and silver S9711/31, promotion at \$549 (U.P. \$699), comes with free Phillips Men's Facial Cleansing Brush worth \$69*



## **SMOOTH OPERATION**

The flexible directional heads of the Series 9000 shaver turn up to 30 degrees in each angle, lifting and cutting the hairs on the skin to ensure a close shave. Whether you're a hirstute male or a clean-shaven smooth operator, it's an ideal shaving partner.

*Phillips Series 9000 shaver in black and bronze S9511/41, promotion at \$499 (U.P. \$579), comes with free Phillips Men's Facial Cleansing Brush worth \$69*



## THE POWER OF KINETICS

Seiko's Kinetic system turns 30 years old next year, and it remains one of the most reliable systems converting movement into electrical power to drive your watch. The Calibre 7D48 movement enable Seiko's Premier watches to run easily, powered by your body's movement, and boasts a perpetual calendar accurate up to 28 February 2100.

*Seiko Premier Kinetic Perpetual Novak Djokovic Special Edition SNP126P1 in stainless steel case with leather strap, \$1,094*



## DIVE MASTER

The Marinemaster by Seiko is the same age as our nation. With five decades of water experience, you can bet it has plenty of endurance. The Prospex Marinemaster Professional comes in titanium, with a Hi-Beat movement, diving rubber strap and a titanium bracelet. Seiko has also coated the hands and markers with a new Lumibrite that glows 60 per cent longer than the past. Only 700 will be produced in this limited edition.

*Seiko Prospex Marinemaster Professional SBEX001G in titanium case and bracelet, \$9,988*



## GRAND DAME

Grand Seiko has been a sweetly kept secret by Seiko corporation until its international release a few years ago. It remains the highlight of Seiko's fine watchmaking, with a powerful Hi-Beat movement that keeps it precise, a GMT function integrated into the 9S86 movement and continuous hour adjustment along with quick hour changes for travel time zones. The lion roars strongly in this watch.

*Grand Seiko Hi-Beat 36000 GMT SBGJ015G in stainless steel case and bracelet, \$8,967*





## AUTOMATED TIME

There's no need to fumble around with the crown adjustments on this Seiko Astron marvel. The GPS-connected, solar-charged timepiece knows where you are around the world at any one time, and changes the time with just one press of a button. So you'll always know the local time and your home time. It's also a perpetual calendar. Oh, did we mention Djokovic's signature on the case back? Available now in a range of materials and finishes.

*Seiko Astron GPS Solar Dual-Time SSE060  
Novak Djokovic 2015 Limited Edition in  
rose gold finished stainless steel case and  
crocodile leather strap, \$2,729*







**GRAINS OF TRUTH**

With its own integrated production, ECCO is one of a handful of shoemakers in the world that design, produce and retail their footwear. Its leathers are carefully selected for quality, with beautiful grains and a supple finish for all-day comfort.

*ECCO Houston derby, \$399.90*



## CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

### FORM AND UTILITY

The beauty of leather is in its ability to age well. Grained calf leather in particular develops a patina through its exposure to the environment as well as the oils secreted by the body, retaining that sheen and finish over time. The Ely briefcase comes with multiple compartments for practical use, including a zippered back slot for quick retrieval of items. Nifty.

*ECCO Ely briefcase, \$599.90*



### SMART TECHNOLOGY

Like any sturdy Danish design label, ECCO incorporates brilliant and practical technology into its products, from the simple stuff like water-repellent laces to a fibre inlay sole design that improves air circulation and keeps you comfy.

*ECCO Biarritz Wingtip Oxford, \$309.90*



## INSPIRATION



PHOTO JAYDEN TAN STYLING JASMINE HUANG

The Daytona. One of the statement chronographs that we're claiming this season, as soon as our bonuses are in the bank. But which edition? The classic full yellow gold with black dial, or the stainless steel? Personally, the two-tone edition has enough oomph for style and sturdiness. Couple that with the distinct Arabic numerals display, and you know you have a winner.

*Rolex Oyster Perpetual Cosmograph Daytona (40mm) in 18k Yellow Rolesor and Blue Arab Dial, poa*



THE MARQUES OF QUALITY

# CALIBRE

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BULGARI IN JAPAN / BREITLING AT THE RENO AIR RACE / THE CALIFORNIA T / INVEST IN GOLD

162

MERGER  
COMPLETE

We speak with the  
CEO of Montblanc  
about how he's  
amalgamated the  
various departments  
of the company into  
a creature with a  
single vision



# Evolving Through Time

Bulgari's journey through the world of watchmaking

WORDS SEAN MOSSADEG PHOTOS BVLGARI

*THERE IS ALWAYS SOME MEASURE OF SCEPTICISM* towards jewellery brands that stick their fingers into the technical affairs of watchmaking. The eye-catching design, materials and “bling” of personal adornment stand in stark contrast to the unforgiving standards of calibres, complications and innovations involved in putting together solid mechanical watches. Over the years though, a few fashion and jewellery brands have successfully made the jump, proving that with time and passion, they can bring the best of both worlds together.

Bulgari, the Italian jewellery and luxury goods label, made its jump into men's watches 40 years ago when it chose to celebrate its male customers with a limited edition timepiece. Christened the Bulgari Roma, the piece took inspiration from Roman coins of old and used a Roman typeface that boldly declared “BVLGARI ROMA” across its bezel. In true 1970s fashion (what with the quartz crisis hitting hard), the brand produced the watch as a quartz piece and even had an LCD screen.

Seeing the success of those pieces and sensing an opportunity to step into a new market, Bulgari charged forth to release a new men's collection of watches in 1977 and sought help from the definitive watch designer of the era, Gérald Genta.

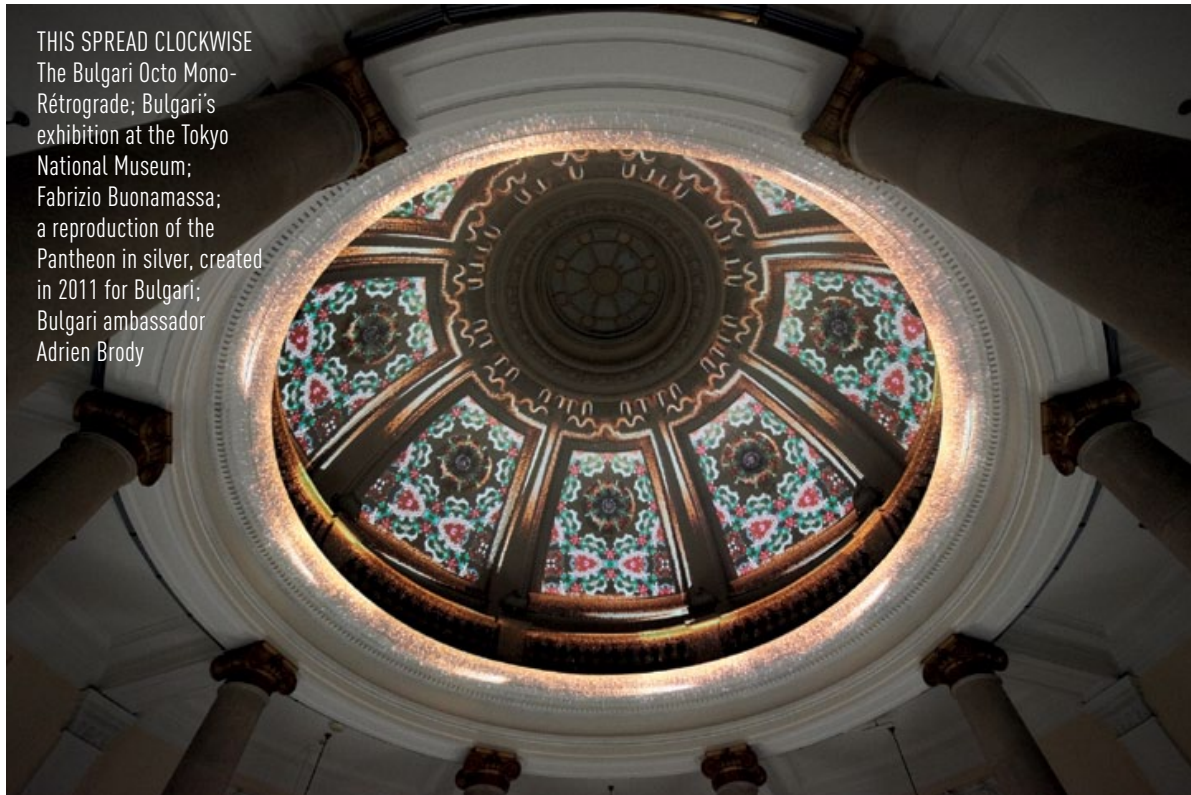
As the collection expanded, the brand sought to produce higher end timepieces, adding more complications and introducing watchmaking finesse to appease a growing number of fans.

Forty years on, Bulgari has effectively capitalised on its unique timepiece designs. Fabrizio Buonamassa, the watch design director for the brand, explained, “As a brand, we're very contemporary and we've always found a way to hit the trend but in our own Italian way. A Bulgari timepiece is one that you'll pass on. We don't want it to be a fleeting thing so there's a balance that has to be struck there.” Buonamassa knows a thing or two about balance. The biggest challenge of the

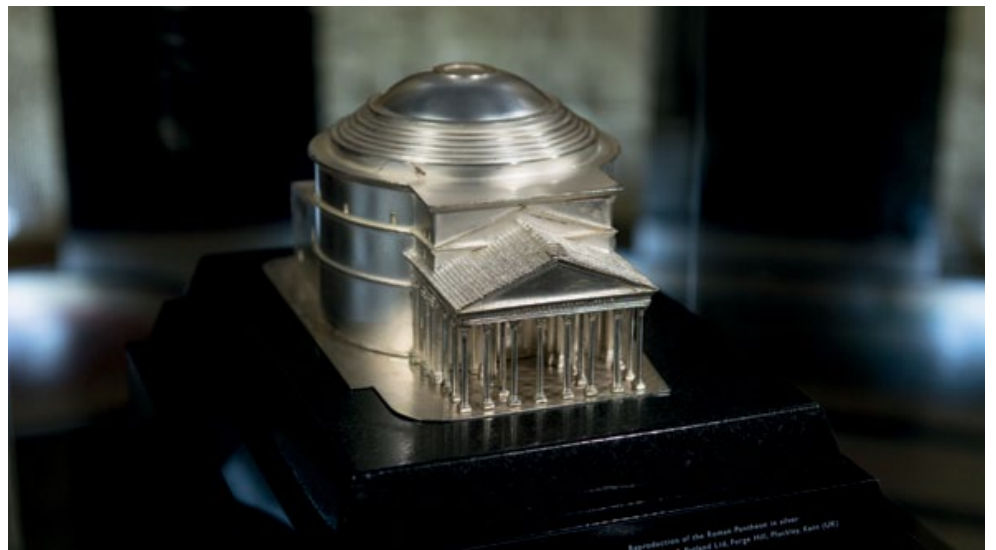
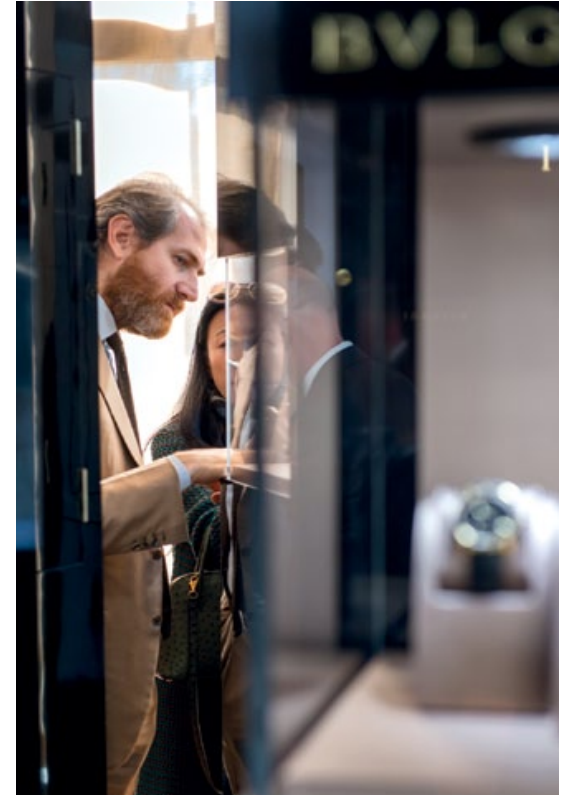




## BRAND STORY



THIS SPREAD CLOCKWISE  
The Bulgari Octo Mono-  
Rétrograde; Bulgari's  
exhibition at the Tokyo  
National Museum;  
Fabrizio Buonamassa;  
a reproduction of the  
Pantheon in silver, created  
in 2011 for Bulgari;  
Bulgari ambassador  
Adrien Brody




job as he puts it is “guarding the technical side”, or making sure that the internal Swiss watchmaking element of the brand’s timepieces doesn’t compromise Italian design sensibilities.

While the Roma may have kickstarted Bulgari’s journey into watchmaking, the other collections set a standard for the brand. Its Octo collection, launched in 2012, pays tribute to the Italian aesthetic – clean cuts, dramatically thin and perfect under the cuff of a Neapolitan cut suit. This year, Bulgari’s offering for its Octo range sees the new Octo Mono-Rétrograde and Bi-Rétrograde timepieces as the highlights.

With a running minute counter taking up three quarters of the dial and a jumping hour indicator at six o’clock, the Mono-Rétrograde (top right) is just one example of Bulgari’s ability at combining fashionable aesthetics and watchmaking know-how. Another watch from Bulgari this year that showcases its forte at marrying

technical brilliance and a stylish aesthetic is the Papillon Heure Sautante (right).

The Papillon range, conceived by another famed watch designer Daniel Roth, sees a bezel-less double ellipse case housing the innovative time display. A pair of minute hands, one retracting as the hour ends and the other extending, give the viewer a sense of retrograde minutes. A beauty to watch? Absolutely.

What Bulgari has pushed for is not so much traditional watchmaking but taking that knowledge and relentlessly shaping it to fit the brand’s own unique vision of accessories. While it may have its foundation in fine jewellery, it would be criminal to assume that Bulgari hasn’t evolved. Today, the brand stands as a lesson that the quest for balancing an age-old practice such as timekeeping with contemporary aesthetics can be a tough challenge but one that’s ultimately possible. 



### THE PIANIST SPEAKS

Bulgari ambassador Adrien Brody’s favourite collection is the Octo. “It blends masculinity and gracefulness. Aesthetically, it references art deco, something I enjoy,” said the Oscar-winning actor.



# The Magnificent Winged Beasts

August Man takes up Breitling's invitation to fly

WORDS **DARREN HO** PHOTOS **BREITLING**

*"I AM HANDING OVER CONTROL* of the aircraft to you. We're going to keep going towards those mountains. You'll be flying the plane," David Martin said to me over the radio in his two-seater plane. I gave him a thumbs up and found myself holding the joystick steady while piloting the Breitling-clad twin-engine plane. Exhilarating doesn't begin to describe what I felt. Liberation. Adrenaline rushing through the body. A bit of hyperventilation at the idea that I have been proffered authority over a machine that was soaring thousands of feet in the air, if just for a few minutes.

Getting used to flying was easier than I expected. I'd been in simulators before, and quizzed pilot friends about flying, but this was the real thing. I thought I'd test it, turning a little too much to the left, and then banked right to tilt the plane back. I nosed the craft upward by pulling the stick towards me, then tried a downward dive by pushing it forward. The plane was more responsive than I had expected – a compact beast built to take the

rough and tumble and capable of aerobatic feats. I eventually learnt that a gentle touch, a slight twitch, was ample. Overcoming the temptation to do an actual roll, I kept the plane at a slant for a while and felt a hint of G-forces on my body, before reluctantly levelling off and handing control back to Martin. He rewarded me with a few stunts. We double spun. We went upside down, climbed back and then flipped over. I experienced zero gravity for a bit, and then he did it again, this time following up with a roll that made me dizzy and delirious.

Eventually, the runway came into view. We took the plane down. It was another journalist's turn at the cockpit. Watching her gave me a bystander's view of how a non-pilot controlled the craft. She did well. Later we were told two men who had their turns earlier went a little green after the ride. It was a great experience, but I was disappointed that Martin did not perform his iconic move, the one the aerobatic community at the Reno Air Races called 'The Breitling', a nod to the race's main sponsor.

Martin's iconic move, called 'The Breitling', sees him take the plane straight up for a minute before going into a dive that involves four successive rolls, and then levelling off just metres above the ground at 250 knots

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## HIGHLIGHT



In the show stunner, he climbed straight up for a minute in a Cap 232 before going into a dive and four rolls in succession, then levelling off just metres above ground at a speed of 250 knots. If you thought Formula One racing was dangerous, you should see the Reno Air Race. It's another level of risk altogether.

Air racing is a competition unlike any other in terms of the level of danger involved as well as the machines. It is an airborne event that has to remain relatively close to the ground for judging purposes. Given the average breakneck speeds at which the planes fly, the potential risk that two planes might crash is incredibly high. The lack of a safety net should a malfunction occur is also worrying. Martin has never had a major accident, but has experienced the odd malfunction or two.

Flying just a couple hundred metres above

the ground at between 300kph and 800kph could result in a death sentence for the pilot if anything irregular occurred, the way it did at Reno in 2011. A plane named The Galloping Ghost crashed, killing the pilot and 10 on the ground, and injuring 69 more. It was the third deadliest airshow disaster in US history, leading to stricter guidelines issued by the National Transportation Safety Board on air show designs. An unfortunate incident this year at the Shoreham Airshow in the UK saw another plane crash kill 11 on the ground, along with the pilot.

The highlight this year was title sponsor Breitling, which brought its own civilian Jet Team to exhibit and perform as part of its ongoing American Tour campaign. The company signed a sponsorship agreement worth US\$1.2 million with the Reno Air Races

in 2013, crucially needed post-2011 crash, and with the assistance of the Nevada Tourism Board, the air show continues to prosper, celebrating its jubilee anniversary last year.

### BREITLING AND PILOTS

Breitling's association with piloting started exactly a century ago. In 1915, the brand created the first independent chronograph pushpiece. Eight years later, it separated the start and stop functions from the reset operation. This was essential for clocking laps in races, and to keep track of actual flight time by pilots in aviation. In the first decade of aviation, flights clocked anything from 22 seconds to a few hours. A decade later, the brand scored another innovation by creating the two-pusher operation on a watch – the modern chronograph.



## THE EMERGENCY II



Breitling's Emergency timepieces have antennas that radio an SOS signal. The Emergency I offered a single-channel microtransmitter on the 121.5MHz international air distress frequency.

The Emergency II upped the ante with a dual-channel emergency satellite transmitter. Breitling set a record for creating the most compact transmitter and battery, and also used a lightweight titanium case for ruggedness.



Of course, Breitling wasn't the only chronograph maker. But it specifically developed chronographs for the dashboard, highly precise timepieces that were designed for military aviation use. Without GPS satellites, pilots tracked their location and distance travelled through elapsed time. A compass, chronograph and altimeter were flight essentials. Flight instruments inspired the slide rule Navitimer timepiece, a wristwatch with a bezel sliding rule designed to calculate speed, distance covered and more. Numerous pilots have worn Breitling, most notably Scott Carpenter in his orbit around the Earth, astronaut Mark Kelly on his journeys to the International Space Station, and John Travolta, who is an avid aviator and the first non-commercial pilot to fly the A380 plane.

Many commercial pilots or professional military aviators today strap on the mechanical or digital versions of its timepieces. Breitling's reputation as an instrument for professionals, a tagline it has long used, has been realised. Travolta and Kelly, who were present during

the Reno Air Races this year, pointed out the practicality of a watch such as the Emergency II (see sidebar above) to pilots, especially those from the Air Force.

Even if Breitling isn't the official partner of various piloting arms, it is still an unofficial favourite among aviators, judging by the number who were present at the brand's hospitality suite at the Reno Air Races.

### RENO AND THE BREITLING JET TEAM

The stars of the show were the Jet Team members, who are veritable aerobatic rock stars. In their Breitling flight suits and aviator sunglasses, they were the reason we were here. The magnificent seven, many of whom are ex-military pilots, comprise Jacques Bothelin, Bernard Charbonnel, François Ponsot, Patrick Marchand, Paco Wallaert, Christophe Deketelaere and Georges-Eric Castaing. The men form the first civilian aerobatics team, travelling the world on Breitling-branded L-39C Albatros planes that max out at 750kph horizontally, and when assisted by gravity

(i.e. going nose down in a performance), hits just under 0.75 Mach. You might recall them coming to Singapore in 2013 to perform their jaw-dropping and death-defying aerobatic performances, spinning around, flying upside down, and spiking upwards and downwards.

Bothelin, the leader and founding member of the team, explains that the choice of the plane is due to numerous reasons. "They are easy to maintain and they perform very well. We travel around the world a lot, and there are a lot of costs involved in transporting an aerobatic team around the world. This means we have to keep our team lean. Each pilot is responsible for his plane, and we maintain them all with a minimal crew. The L-39C is an excellent and reliable flier, and parts for the plane are easily available without being overly expensive," he shared with us.

He also pointed out that while the Jet Team is a marketing tool for Breitling, they are a self-sustaining entity. They not only participate in air shows and performances to demonstrate their skills, but also offer Breitling's guests an



## HIGHLIGHT



opportunity to experience the thrill of aerobtic flying in the form of shotgun rides in the L-39C as they demonstrate their stunts. It was an adventure that a few journalists and VIPs had the opportunity to experience over the four days of the airshow.

In between the exhibition performances were the serious races among pilots and plane owners, many of whom are either former or practising professionals in the field. There are six classes of competition: Unlimited, T-6, Biplane, Formula One, Sport and Jet. The planes race on a closed circuit and one lap ranges between five and 12 kilometres.

The events start with qualifiers over a few days, followed by the heats and the final. The participants take off one after the next, and then follow a starter plane that guides them to a point, by which time they are aligned. When the starter plane takes off with a jet of exhaust, the race starts. Overtaking is only permitted from the outside/starboard side. That makes it infinitely more complicated, but it is a needed safety precaution.

Plane classes are set based on body and engine types, with the most exciting ones being the Unlimited and Jet competitions. Pylons, positioned around the course and monitored by umpires, ensure that the planes do not cut unfairly across the track, and report when such incidents occur, which add penalties to the offending pilot's time. It's a really thrilling experience, particularly if you're at the paddock and surrounded by enthusiasts pointing out the details of each plane.

Like Formula One, the Reno Air Races develop their own cult following. While my knowledge of planes is rather insignificant compared with the many expert pilots around, I could not help but admire the skill and speed at which these machines zip around the invisible track, sometimes in excess of 700kph.

I tried a little test during the race, manually clocking the timing of Robert "Hoot" Gibson, winner of the Unlimited Gold Race, with my Navitimer. Not only was it right on time to the second, calculating the speed of the plane using the slide rule was also amazingly simple.

The Reno Air Races have its own cult following. One has to admire the skill and speed at which these machines zip around an invisible track, sometimes in excess of 700kph

It's not just impressive, but also mind-blowing that we are able to create the most minute machines on the wrist that can clock these engineered hulks soaring through the air. They are two inventions on opposite ends of the size spectrum and both are just as complicated.

On the last day of the Reno Air Races, just before I left, David Martin handed me a little document – a certificate of courage for being willing to stay up in the air with him for over 20 minutes, and a promise that if I ever found myself in Reno again, he would take me for another ride, and this time, he would execute The Breitling. I've already booked my tickets. 🍷



# Final Merger

Montblanc's new 1858 series completes the assimilation of the Minerva Institute after nearly a decade

WORDS DARREN HO PHOTOS MONTBLANC



JÉRÔME LAMBERT, CEO OF MONTBLANC and marketing whiz who has in the last couple of years rapidly changed the brand language of the luxury label, isn't interested in maintaining the status quo. Earlier this year, he introduced the breakthrough TimeWalker Urban Speed e-Strap, a pocket-friendly mechanical timepiece with a clever smart band leather NATO strap made by Montblanc's atelier in Florence. The embrace of smart technology without compromising on the mechanical nature of the watch was brilliant. Is it essential? No. But it enables the brand to amalgamate technology with style and an iconic product, adding to Montblanc's identity rather than taking away from it.

## TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED LUXURY

Amalgamation has been Lambert's agenda this year, as technology has also been integrated into its writing instruments. Starting a partnership with Samsung, Montblanc introduced exclusive app services along with two instruments for screen interactivity as well as compatible refills for actual writing. The humble CEO of Montblanc

credits his daughters with the ideas. But he's accomplished a number of other things as well, such as realising Montblanc's impressive level of quality control into a standard of excellence. He's made price points for Montblanc's timepieces very attractive and introduced quality editions in the Heritage Chronométrie and Spirit lines that have style and value. Most notably, he's made Montblanc's Minerva Institute manufacture more publicly noticed, by incorporating select movements into watches such as the Montblanc Heritage Chronométrie ExoTourbillon Minute Chronograph Vasco da Gama.


Given the *haute de gamme* nature of the Villeret manufacture, it's simply impossible to produce more than a few hundred movements each year. But by creating these one-off special editions that utilise the Minerva Institute's mastery of watchmaking, he's enabling people to discover its excellence through a mainstream product series.

## WHEN TWO BECOME ONE

This merging of two aspects of watchmaking – the commercial ranges of Montblanc produced

at Le Locle with the high quality timekeeping offered at Villeret – is now finalised in the 1858 line. The watches are stunning, a classic series styled with a vintage toned Sans Serif font, beautifully balanced hands, and two movements, one by Le Locle and one by Minerva. The Chronograph Tachymeter has all the makings of a hallmark chronograph from Minerva. The institute, which was established in 1858, was (and still is) a renowned standard in Swiss watchmaking.

The Small Seconds timepiece has a manually wound 23.03 movement and a large case size. It's beautiful, whether paired with a calf leather straps or a classic mesh bracelet. The choice of fonts on the dials, the vintage Montblanc logo and the spatial layout of the watches are sublime. They are also limited. The small seconds edition has 858 pieces while the chronograph is even more scant, with just 100 of them out in the market.

Lambert points out that "the Minerva chronograph movements are some of the most beautiful that you will see, however they are also incredibly limited". We cannot disagree. In fact, we really want to own one. 



*Rule #11*

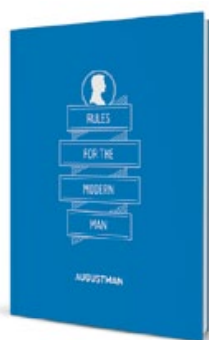
# ESSENTIAL RULES OF GENTLEMANLY BEHAVIOUR

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## HE OFFERS ASSISTANCE EVEN WHEN IT IS NOT EXPECTED

At work, if he has completed his own duties, he may offer to help others. He does not act on his own accord to do someone else's work for them, but only when they accept his offer. A gentleman should always offer to carry a lady's bags for her, but never her handbag.



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# Nonpareil

Vacheron Constantin celebrates its 260th birthday with a bang

WORDS SEAN MOSSADEG PHOTOS VACHERON CONSTANTIN

A *WATCH MEANS DIFFERENT THINGS* to different people. A corporate executive in a suit may regard his timepiece quite differently from the soldier who's on the battlefield. But in high watchmaking, every creation is regarded in the absolute. Why go for anything less when you can achieve the slimmest calibre in the market, the most tourbillons in one piece and who knows what new superlatives the future may bring?

This year, Vacheron Constantin, the longest consistently running brand in the world, added another record to its exhaustive list of accolades – the world's most complicated watch. The unveiling of the Reference 57260 was an even more special occasion for the Swiss watchmaker since it's the brand's 260th year.

Conceived in the mind of a major Vacheron Constantin collector (whose identity is yet to be revealed), the Ref 57260 is a double-dialled pocketwatch that boasts an unparalleled 57 complications and unsurprisingly, took over a period of eight years to complete by a team comprising three of the company's Master Watchmakers.

In numbers, the Ref 57260 is a timepiece meant to make jaws drop – 57 complications, 2,826 individual components, 242 jewels, 957 grams, 10 patents (which means 10 complications never done before in the watch industry), 31 hands, 85 different prototypes made, 16 kilograms worth of drawings. For brevity's sake, we won't list all of the 57 complications that the Ref 57260 boasts. Instead, we will pick our favourite functions that stand out in the crowd.

## SPINNING AROUND

While some may argue that a tourbillon doesn't count as a complication as it merely aids in telling time, Vacheron Constantin's new "Armillary sphere tourbillon" deserves a spot of its own. A triple-axis tourbillon that sees an aluminium cage rotating at an extremely quick 15-second pace and a unique spherical hairspring, the brand's creation is a unique take on tourbillons and one we're hoping to see on other Vacheron Constantin timepieces in the future.





### MARK YOUR DAYS

In a pocket watch this size, perpetual calendars are almost expected. What the brand did to up the ante was introduce a Hebrew calendar that is calculated based on lunar month and solar year (extremely rare in watchmaking), a business calendar (one that indicates the week of the year) as well as an astronomic calendar that features sidereal time, a sky chart and a host of other functions.

Of the 57 functions in the timepiece, 26 of them revolve around the calendars with interesting ones such as lengths of days and nights or Yom Kippur dates.

### OF CHIMES AND TIME


The Ref 57260 also employs a five-gong striking mechanism to sound off the time in the tune of the Westminster Quarters of the Big Ben. Should you be one of those who enjoy being reminded of how fleeting time is, the watch can be set to a mode that gives off a crisp chime at every quarter of the hour.

Perhaps more useful is another feature that lets the timepiece run as

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The Ref 57260 boasts 57 complications and took over eight years to complete by a team comprising three of the company's Master Watchmakers

a day-only mode by allowing you to disarm the striking mechanism between 10pm and 8am, and then allowing it to resume the scheduled chimes in the daytime.

The Ref 57260 may not seem much to the mainstream buyer now due to its inaccessibility but the fact that Vacheron Constantin possesses 10 new patents is a significant development for any watch enthusiast – it means 10 new complications that we could very well be seeing on wristwatches in the future once the brand has figured a way to shrink them. Proving once again that upholding tradition is by no means a slowing down of advancement, the oldest watch brand in the world is looking to shake things up once again. 

### A TRADITION ON ITS OWN

The Ref 57260 is not Vacheron Constantin's first foray into the art of grand complications. The brand's heritage in producing exceptional timepieces goes back a long time with highly complicated clock watches and pocket watches being presented to eminent individuals such as James Ward Packard in 1919, King Fuad I of Egypt in 1929 and later on King Farouk I in 1946, and Count Guy du Boisrouvray in 1948.



HIGHLIGHT



# Recycling Habits

Why vintage re-editions are the new trend

WORDS SEAN MOSSADEG





*THE HISTORY OF WRISTWATCHES* is filled with timepieces that have left their stamp on the fourth dimension. Iconic, revered and desired even decades later, these watches slowly gain a cult following. As the years pass, these brands evolve and whether they sway from their origins or stick to their guns, the history and success of their admired timepieces remain with collectors.

These days, the desire for vintage cult timepieces has risen, resulting in brands digging through their annals to find timepieces worthy of reintroducing to the market. For example, Tudor first reintroduced its Heritage Black Bay collection in 2012 with the warm burgundy and black-chocolate toned model, paying homage to the brand's diver watches from the '50s.

This year, Tudor opened the same vault again with the new Heritage Black Bay Black, a variant that's closer to the 1954 piece in terms of colour. The resounding joy from watch enthusiasts around is a good indicator that people have been waiting for a piece with the same look as its vintage predecessor for a long time.

It's an understandable response. Why would you go on the vintage market to get a timepiece that may have deteriorated mechanically? More often than not, new re-edition timepieces are fitted with the newest calibres from brands – the best of both worlds. Glashütte Original's Sixties collection pays tribute to the brand's previous identity as state-owned entity VEB Glashütter Uhrenbetriebe and its Spezimatic watch from 1964. While German watchmaking may be regarded as the pinnacle of horology, the idea of buying a state-owned timepiece (some 50 years old) may throw some off. With a modern Glashütte Original movement powering the collection, however, you no longer need to fear ending up with a faulty piece.

For TAG Heuer, the cult timepiece of choice was the Monaco watch worn by acting legend Steve McQueen in *Le Mans*. Not only was the watch made popular thanks to McQueen's fame, it was also the first square chronograph in the watch world, which only reinforced its standing among collectors. TAG Heuer continued using film stills to market the watch and while it was discontinued in the mid '70s, a resurgence led to the brand re-introducing it years later. Like most iconic timepieces, the brand has built an entire collection around it, even



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More often than not, new re-edition timepieces are fitted with the newest calibres from brands – the best of both worlds

introducing avant-garde complications into the line with the Monaco V4.

Like TAG Heuer and the Monaco, the success of Jaeger-leCoultre's iconic Reverso was built on the back of its unique flippable square case. Conceived in 1931 after a British army officer was looking for a watch that was robust enough to wear on the polo fields, the Reverso became a classic. Several reiterations later, the brand decided to bring back the original watch to great reception. Building on the success of that piece, the brand created a new line known as the Grande Reverso 1931, with the year signaling a closer look to the originals.

Aesthetically, vintage timepieces have a historical flair not present in current models. Panerai's California dial, with its Roman and Arabic numerals and the absence of the brand's name, may not be unique to Panerai but it certainly increased the timepiece's popularity. The brand has regularly made an annual variation of this timepiece, a tribute to the brand's history and a constant reminder of the '30s.

While it may be easy for watchmakers to capitalise on nostalgia, we're close approaching the stage where all the iconic timepieces of the past have been revitalised. It's time for brands to create new timekeeping concepts and designs that could potentially become icons in the future. We wait with bated breath. 🕒



A man with dark, wavy hair and a friendly smile is seated, leaning forward with his hands clasped. He is wearing a dark navy blue suit jacket over a white dress shirt and a dark tie with a subtle, repeating pattern. On his left wrist, he wears a Chronoswiss watch with a black dial, white subdials, and a black leather strap. The background is a warm, light-colored wood paneling.

# Timing the Year End

News from the world of horology

COMPILED BY SEAN MOSSADEG

## Chronoswiss and the art of bespoke timepieces

Oliver Ebstein and his wife Eva took over the reins of Chronoswiss just a little over three years ago. Under their direction, the brand has slowly gained prominence in the watchmaking world once again. We spoke to Ebstein during his most recent visit and learnt about Chronoswiss' passion for the bespoke.

"If you're going to be paying a few thousands for a watch, you might as well have it made to your liking," he explained while showing us a couple of Chronoswiss creations. The brand's bespoke series sees its own artisans working on guilloché and enamel dials, based on a customer's choice. "We've done animal paintings, family crests, even portraits of people," shared Ebstein.

Is there a geographical disparity in the desire for bespoke? "Yes, it started in the Middle East but now, this drive for individuality is catching on everywhere." He recounted an experience at La Martina. While purchasing a T-shirt, the saleswoman encouraged him to customise it. "Everybody wants to be different. That's not a bad thing," he said.

While the bespoke timepieces from the brand are currently limited to the Sirius Artist range, Ebstein is keen on extending it to the Régulateur watches, a collection that Chronoswiss is famous for. "Imagine being able to have enamel for the subdial with a drawing that you like," he proposed. We have to admit it does sound enticing.





## UNCOMPLICATING TIME

## UNVEILING THE NEW LEGACY MACHINE

Maximilian Büsser's latest creation is lying under a cloth, waiting to be unveiled at the climax of his story. He starts with the origins of Stephen McDonnell, an Irish watchmaker who helped Büsser assemble a movement in 2006 when the latter had problems.

In 2011, their situations were reversed and Büsser offered McDonnell a chance to create a timepiece for MB&F. Seizing the opportunity, McDonnell sought to solve the age-old riddle of the perpetual calendar.

The result of this collaboration is MB&F's first ever calibre conceived by someone else. The Legacy Machine Perpetual upends the traditional idea of the calendar function with the introduction of a patent-pending mechanical processor.

Unlike the grand levier (lever) in traditional perpetual calendars that assumes 31 days make up a month and skips unnecessary days, the Legacy Machine Perpetual's processor works on a default month length of 28 days and adds accordingly. Adjusting the calendar on a traditional movement during the skipping phase could easily ruin the movement, a problem Büsser insists is solved by McDonnell's creation. The entire calendar is also integrated, a contrast to the usual module over base calibre that restricts aesthetics.

## AWARD SEASON

## OF GRAND PRIX AND TIME

The watchmaking Oscars have concluded and the impressive list of winners have been revealed. Taking home the top prize or the Aiguille d'Or was independent watch darling Greubel Forsey's Tourbillon 24 Secondes Vision, beating out a host of other spectacular timepieces. A Special Jury prize was awarded to Micke Pintus, Yannick Pintus and Jean-Luc Perrin, the three watchmakers who worked on Vacheron Constantin's Reference 57260 that we wrote about on page 168. Taking home the Men's Watch Prize was Kari Voutilainen's GMR timepiece.



## A CASE FOR CHARITY

November saw the sixth edition of the biennial Only Watch auction and a record set for the highest amount raised in its history. The auction offered 44 unique watches from leading watch manufacturers across the world, with all proceeds benefiting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy research. A stainless steel Patek Philippe reference 5016A-010 sold for 7.3 million Swiss francs, setting the record for the highest price ever paid for a wristwatch at an auction. Adding to the surprise was the sale of a unique Tudor Heritage Black Bay One at CHF375,000, more than 100 times over its low estimate.



## ELECTRIC FURY

## RACING WITH A TWIST

The Formula E season has officially started and the e.dams-Renault team sponsored by Richard Mille has already had reason to celebrate. Sébastien Buemi, who finished second overall last season, finished first in the Beijing leg. Buemi went on to set the fastest lap timing in Kuala Lumpur for the second race but failed to secure a podium finish. This second season of Formula E is already looking to be top-notch entertainment with the rules being tweaked to allow manufacturers to build their own electric engines, inverter, gearbox and cooling system.



## Celebrating Singapore's Golden Jubilee

Patek Philippe's existence in the watch world dates back to 1839 when the company was incorporated. One of the most eminent brands in the watch industry, it celebrated its 175th anniversary last year with important retrospectives into its vast history. A little known fact of the brand is its long presence here in Singapore.

While we celebrated our nation's 50th birthday, the Swiss watchmaker paid tribute to the occasion as well as its own 50 years of being in Singapore. To commemorate the event, Patek Philippe presented three exceptional dome table clocks to raise funds for the National Heritage Board, in support of the preservation and promotion of the arts. The clocks (from left) – “The Farquhar Collection”, “The Peranakan Culture” and “The Esplanade, Singapore” were auctioned off by Christie's and raised \$1,000,000, \$750,000 and \$700,000 respectively. The total of \$2.45 million in proceeds will be matched dollar for dollar by the Cultural Matching Fund, a greater amount for the heritage sector. In addition, the successful bidder of the Farquhar Collection dome table clock donated his clock to the National Museum of Singapore.

At the end of his speech, Thierry Stern, president of Patek Philippe, commented, “We hope that with the auctions proceeds these unique pieces achieved, thanks to our esteemed collectors' generosity, Patek Philippe will contribute in preserving Singapore's heritage for the generations to come.”



### EASTERN CINEMATICS

## PIAGET'S GOLDEN HORSE

Collaborations in the watch world sometimes offer more than mere marketing value. Getting involved in another industry can cement the idea that a timepiece is not just an instrument for telling time or a beautiful accessory, but also echoes a lifestyle. Piaget's choice is the film industry. Its commitment to cinema and the arts has been a longstanding tradition.

Besides the Film Independent Spirit Awards and the Hong Kong Film Awards, Piaget also sponsors the Golden Horse Awards. Marking the third year of this partnership, the brand has collaborated once again on the “Golden Horse Awards – Time of Glory” project. As a way of celebrating the nominees in the Best Director, Best Leading Actor and Best Leading Actress categories, the Time of Glory project this year entralls with the theme “The Filming Set”.

Documenting the life of cinema “behind the scenes”, the project brings the nominees back to their roots, expressing the passion and persistence of these creative minds for the silver screen.

Celebrities Aaron Kwok, Deng Chao and Shu Qi joined directors such as Tsui Hark and Hou Hsiao-Hsien, to offer the audience a glimpse into a world beyond the glitz and glamour of the big screen – echoing timeless moments, all in true Piaget fashion.





# TINSEL TOWN

A dash of flash for your wrist

WORDS SEAN MOSSADEG



## FRÉDÉRIQUE CONSTANT

At the heart of every good timepiece is reliability and functionality. Frédérique Constant's latest Classics Index Automatic GMT promises to deliver on both fronts, boasting a clean aesthetic that makes the timepiece easily legible. Whether you're off travelling or on home turf, the red triangle that denotes the second timezone in whatever city you may have set it to contrasts easily against the black or white dials in the collection.



## HYT

When HYT first burst on the independent watch scene, the biggest criticism of its hydro-mechanical technology was the impracticality of it. The watch could not be read at night as the luminescence of the liquid decreased without natural light. With its H4 Metropolis, the brand answered the critics by introducing a tiny light at six o'clock that is powered by a small dynamo. Activating the pusher at four o'clock charges it and illuminates the watch for a short duration.



## CASIO

Growing up, G-Shocks were all the rage. To this day, many men in their 30s still opt for the ruggedness of one when engaging in sports. Piggybacking on this concept, Casio's MTG-G1000D is set to satiate the watch lust of men who want a G-Shock that straddles the lines of business and sports. Equipped with Casio's Hybrid Wave Ceptor Technology and a Dual Coil Motor, the MTG-G1000D is the perfect watch for the well-heeled active gent.

## LET THERE BE LIGHT

Vincent Perriard, the man behind HYT, shared with us that an increasing number of brands were looking to introduce illumination devices in their timepieces to highlight romantic complications or tourbillons. Perriard was unable to share the names but we can think of a lot of timepieces, especially skeleton or fully sapphire models, which could benefit from a little light show.



Richard Mille  
RM 011 Asia Edition in  
white gold and NTPT  
carbon case with top  
diamond setting and  
rubber strap



# WINTER CHILL

Embracing the beauty of stark lines

PHOTOGRAPHY SIMON SIM STYLING ASRI JASMAN





**Patek Philippe** Ref 5905P-001 in platinum case with navy blue hand-stitched alligator leather strap

**A. Lange & Söhne** Langematik Perpetual Calendar in 18k pink gold case with brown alligator leather strap





**Jaeger-leCoultre**  
Geophysic Universal  
Time in stainless  
steel case with  
alligator leather strap

**Blancpain** Villeret  
Quantième Complet  
in 18k rose gold case  
with brown alligator  
leather strap



**deLaCour** City Episode  
in titanium black DLC  
case with rubber strap

**Bulgari** Octo Bi-  
Rétrograde in stainless  
steel case with  
alligator leather strap







**Hermès Slim**  
d'Hermès GM in 18k  
rose gold case with  
leather strap

**Corum Bubble**  
Skeleton in  
stainless steel case  
with leather strap





**Mido** Belluna Gent  
Belluna II in stainless  
steel case with  
leather strap

**Tiffany & Co.** CT60  
Chronograph in  
stainless steel with  
blue leather strap



**FORCED INDUCTION**

Turbos aren't every car maker's dream, but it happens to reduce emissions without sacrificing performance







# California Dreamin'

Five reasons why you should buy the Prancing Horse's California T

WORDS HANNAH CHOO PHOTO FERRARI

*PEOPLE DIDN'T QUITE AGREE* with the California. Some said it was too soft while others felt it wasn't fast enough. Its successor, the California T, seems to have made many heads nod. It is Ferrari's first turbocharged car since the explosive F40. Question is, should you get it?

**[1]** Owning a convertible is intoxicating, even more so when it's a Ferrari. The California T has a friendlier disposition than most Ferraris, making it easier to blend in and not attract unnecessary attention.

**[2]** It's Ferrari's most humble, but that doesn't mean its four-litre V8 engine can't kick up a decent 560 horses. It's easier to drive, and its thirst can hold on longer than you'd imagine.

**[3]** This car has its moods. It can be civilised one minute and boisterous the next, depending on whether you choose to drive in Comfort or Sport mode. Pick the former and you will fall into the right amount of pliancy. Side the latter and the transmission comes alive with venom, surging you to 100kph in 3.6 seconds.

**[4]** The top retracts in just under 20 seconds, and that's good enough to compete with the best. But you must be at a complete standstill to manoeuvre it, which can be frustrating when you're caught in a sudden downpour.

**[5]** The sat-nav has been pimped with Apple CarPlay, which is a boon. You can now plug in your iPhone without fumbling with Bluetooth. Text, call and access your music with relative ease on the optional JBL Professional stereo system. Our verdict: get it, seriously. 🍷



# The Wheel Life

Test drives, car hacks and talking shop with the Mazda folks

COMPILED BY HANNAH CHOO

## THE DETAILS

**Engine:** 2,979cc

**Top Speed:** 250kph

**0-100kph:** 4.9 seconds

**Max Output:** 326hp

**Max Torque:** 450Nm

**CO<sub>2</sub> Emission:** 175gph

**Fuel consumption:**  
7.5 litres per 100km



## TEST DRIVE

### WHAT IS IT?

This is the updated BMW M135i we're talking about, nipped, tucked and given a new look and feel.

### SO WHAT'S CHANGED?

The M135i faced a midlife crisis and decided to go through a mini makeover this year. While most think of it as a mutt crossed between a regular BMW and a full-on M, the magic of the latter remains. That aside, it has technology updates like a GPS-guided eight-speed automatic gearbox similar to a Wraith's, as well as subtle styling tweaks like slimmer headlights and a new aerodynamic M Sport front bumper.

### DOES IT OFFER NEW TRICKS?

Oh yes. Don't let its innocent hatchback looks lie to you. Underneath the bonnet is a twin-

turbo 3.0-litre straight six that might give you whiplash if you're not strapped in. The optional M modifications also improve the car's response time as well as its suspension. Tackling turns is a joy and once you make friends with third gear, you'll be able to take it up to the summit of Mount Fraser. Remember to wave to the other cars struggling to generate enough torque to even grip the road.

### HOW THIRSTY DOES IT GET?

Fuel economy is at best, decent. The base model with a six-cog manual is rated at eight litres per 100km combined, while with auto transmission it descends to seven and a half.

### WHAT KIND OF DENT DOES IT MAKE ON MY WALLET?

A giant one, although it's one you'll probably welcome. \$235,000, COE included (price is accurate at press time).







TEST DRIVE

## WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSES

While we bade a fond farewell to Land Rover's Defender, we welcome a different breed. The Discovery Sport appears to be a far more capable off-roader, boding well for the future of comfort and adventure. It promises solid interiors and the strength to mount steep slopes as well as wade through any pond that's 60 centimetres deep. It starts at \$247,000, COE included (price is accurate at press time).

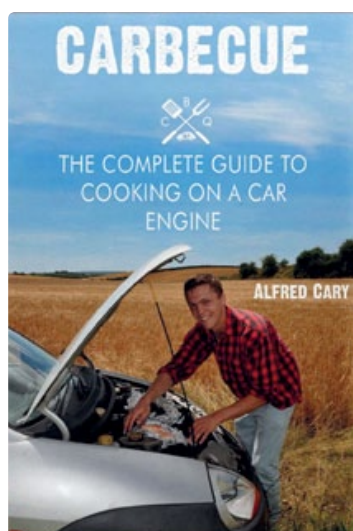
*Take the Land Rover Discovery Sport out for a spin at 45 Leng Kee Road, tel. 6378 2626*

REV UP YOUR STOMACH

## HOW TO COOK ON A CAR ENGINE

If you like driving around the globe, you'll need to know how to cook a hunk of meat without a camping stove. According to Alfred Cary, author of *Carbecue: The Complete Guide to Cooking on a Car Engine*, any engine that's run for at least five minutes is ready to cook a juicy steak wrapped in tinfoil. Put it in place, drive around for another 10 minutes and you can park and dig in. He has successfully cooked on Fords, Nissans, Volkswagens and Land Rovers. Bigger engines for bigger steaks naturally. He recommends using tinfoil, but a thin-based pan should work just as well.

*Get the book at [carbecue.co.uk](http://carbecue.co.uk)*



## WHEN THE CAR SMELLS...

Odour in a car clings like a sticky girlfriend. You've had enough of it, and Febreze won't do the job. Whether you're a serial chain smoker, a sweaty salesman with bad body odour or just a clumsy oaf who spilled a drink or three, there are a few tricks that will banish bad smell. For serious deodorising, buy a bag of charcoal, grab a chunk, place it on a metal tray or stuff an old sock with it. Then leave it in the car for a few days. For mild deodorising, wet towels with white distilled vinegar and let them sit in the car to suck the smells up. For spills, shower your carpets with baking soda (Arm & Hammer works) and leave them overnight before you brush and vacuum the offending area.



IN OTHER NEWS

## SET THE STREETS FREE

Every Sunday in Bogota, Colombia, main roads get shut for several hours to make room for pedestrians, runners and cyclists. World Car Free Day (22 September) is also celebrated in countries like Japan, but that shouldn't happen just once a year. Oslo's newly elected city council recognises that. It aims to banish cars from the city centre within the next four years, so as to make a greener downtown for everyone and save the environment. Buses and trams continue uninterrupted to facilitate movement, and an extra 60km of bicycle lanes will be built. If Oslo can do it, so can Singapore. We look forward to the day when we can make our city centre car-free.





## THE DETAILS

Engine: 1,998cc

Top Speed: 198kph

0-100kph: 8 seconds

Max Torque: 200Nm

CO<sub>2</sub> Emission: 154gph

## TALK SHOP

## PAINT THE TOWN RED

Who knew we'd cross paths with this goofy little convertible we call the Miata. The MX-5 is back, cloaked in red plucked with eyes oh-so-small. We're excited at the possibility of owning one, but first, we find out a little bit from the chief designer Masashi Nakayama and project manager Nobuhiro Yamamoto.

**Mr Nakayama, I can't believe you've had your MX-5 for 25 years.**

Believe it or not, it has always been faithful to me. It's indispensable to my everyday life and I always feel relaxed whenever I drive it. It's casual, easy to control, and low maintenance. You can imagine how hard it is to say goodbye.

**Can't say I disagree.**

It is like enjoying a rollercoaster ride, I reckon. It's hard to find a car that beats the same rhythm as you. Drop the top (it is done manually in a heartbeat, helped by spring assistance) and drive away as you drown in wind and the sound of the engine. No better way to enjoy an MX-5.

**Plus, the interior is pretty impressive, unusual for a Japanese make.**

Our main goal is to blur the line between the interior and exterior. We take consistency very seriously. Also, if you're tall and concerned about space and ergonomics, then you have nothing to worry about.

**To Mr Yamamoto, what advantages does the manual rooftop have over electric?**

An electric roof system takes at least 10 seconds to operate, while our one-handed system only requires three seconds tops. An electric system makes the car heavier, which weighs on the motor, gear and the ilk. An aero board has also been installed to control the air flow, so you can keep your hands on the wheel and off your hair.

**Speaking of electric, it has electric power steering?**

Unlike the hydraulic steering system, the electric one enables subtle tuning that creates the feeling of unity between the car and the

driver. It also improves fuel economy, since hydraulic systems tend to consume a lot.

**How has the MX-5 evolved since day one?**

We've spent a great deal perfecting it for greater enjoyment. Advancements have been taken to a new level, and you get to enjoy features like crash protection, greater luxury and performance.

**Modern, yet it still remains an icon.**

The MX-5 has always kept the primitive values of a good sports car – light, compact, affordable and fun. We innovate to preserve, keeping it as timeless as it is.





# News Unworthy

In the fastest-fingers-first game of Internet news reporting, what price accuracy?



I WAS IN NEW YORK RECENTLY to cover a newsworthy event, the launch of the first fully-fledged smartwatch by Swiss watchmaker TAG Heuer. Ordinarily, this would not be an opportunity for commentary, but an error of reporting by a news agency led to a chain of events that made it relevant to this column.

With the launch of this smartwatch was a key issue brought up, one of pricing. The watch in question had numerous price rumours before its official launch last month, ranging from US\$1,000 early on to US\$1,800 and finally settling on US\$1,500, one the company considered reasonable.

Unfortunately, AFP made a slight error in its reporting a couple of days before the official launch of this smartwatch and added a zero to the price. At the time of print, this information had not yet been changed on the AFP article online.

This could have been easily rectified, except, in light of the immediacy of the launch, news sites simply lifted the AFP article wholesale and replicated it, some

adding their own opinions and take on the timepiece. This included Singapore's national papers and television channels, and a slew of other less-informed websites followed. At time of print, the *Business Times* had not yet edited the information on its site. *Channel News Asia* had done so, along with *Yahoo News*, though the latter had simply edited the information without acknowledging the error (a comment on the article is the only evidence of its mistake).

With *Channel News Asia*, the editing was rather haphazard. The headline on the article was correct, but its titling on Google wasn't, and one paragraph within the article still stated the price as US\$15,000.

Why am I picking on them?

I'm not. I simply brought this up as an example of the dangers of chasing news at reckless speeds. Inaccurate reporting, in this day and age where information moves not like a train on tracks, but an insidious virus, can be detrimental to many. Granted, this was a minor issue. What if this had

“

Instead of independently confirming information, one news site is using another's report as confirmation

been tied to a share price or earnings call? What if, instead of a report about a new watch launch, this had been a story of a serial killer? An extra zero can sometimes do much more than just shock; it can induce fear, panic, distress.

News journalists face immense pressure today. They have less resources and need to generate stories that draw eyeballs. It's all about website hits. Even those of us in the lifestyle fields face that same expectation. I experienced that when attempting to file my story and realised that images were unavailable online but on a thumb drive that didn't work with the new Macbook. My neighbours at the press conference merely gave me a look of sympathy. No one offered to share them with me online because I'd just be one less competitor in the news fray.

That's fair enough. What isn't is reporting wrong information. What's more, numerous news sites simply riff off news from one another. Instead of independently confirming information, one news site is using another's report as confirmation of fact. This sort of chain reporting is irresponsible at best.

I am reminded of episode seven in the first season of Aaron Sorkin's *The Newsroom*, when an impending nationwide presidential address leads them to question the nature of the address. Some in the team wanted to report on the likeliest issue (Bin Laden's killing) before they can get double confirmation – a gold news standard that remains in place. They eventually decide that accuracy is more important than being the first to make the claim. Though the price of a smart watch isn't anywhere close to double confirmation territory, I think that rule “accuracy over speed” should be a mantra for all reporters of all beats. Unfortunately, given our love of rumours and websites like PerezHilton, that's a dream, not a goal. News should be urgent, that's for sure. But more importantly, it should be correct. 📌



# Tech Shorts

The future of wearables, the best Bluetooth speaker we've tried, and the fall and rise of Microsoft

COMPILED BY FARHAN SHAH

## WELCOME BACK MICROSOFT

For a while, Microsoft seemed to have lost the plot. The computing giant that once had the world in a stranglehold was slowly becoming a punchline, losing market share in the industries it once dominated and barely making a dent in the fields it was venturing into. But ever since Satya Nadella took over the reins, there's been a subtle shift in the company's direction, and Nadella's vision is finally coming to fruition after the Microsoft IFA 2015 keynote back in September. With the introduction of the Surface Book and the Surface Pro 4, Nadella wants to build a complete ecosystem, tying all your tech devices together. While it is similar to Apple's iOS system, there is one distinct difference: Microsoft wants to work together with Apple and Android developers to create Microsoft apps for their products – your iPhone could actually work together with your Microsoft laptop. After having used Windows 10 for a couple of months now (and loving it), I welcome this development, especially in a tech world that's becoming increasingly fragmented and enclosed, rather than open and free.

### BABY STEPS

The fourth iteration of the Microsoft Surface Pro is blurring the line between tablets and laptops, and is its best version yet. But the battery life (nine hours) could definitely be better.







## 10 MINUTES WITH...

We shoot the breeze with Jorgen Nordin, head of product development at Jawbone, about wearables and the concept of 24/7 wearability.

### How are you tackling the smartwatch threat?

People tend to talk about wearables as if it is one entity but we see it as three – smartwatches, fitness and activity trackers. Smartwatches and fitness trackers tend to be large and have detailed displays. They often need overnight charging and are too big to wear to bed, so they cannot track sleep. If you want a comprehensive view of wellness, you need to track sleep and that's where activity trackers come in. This is what we do.

### What is the next big evolution in wearables?

People want to live better and to deliver this, tech companies must focus on doing the things they do best while partnering with others who

are already innovating. It's not just about the hardware now. It's about focusing on people and the experiences that really matter to them instead of just talking about the products people are wearing and the data they provide.

### Yes, I feel that wearables offer a lot of data that don't mean anything.

Absolutely. Understanding how you live goes beyond the dashboards of data presented to you. It's also about helping people understand the relationship between activity, nutrition, sleep and balance. This is something that Jawbone is constantly pursuing. But this cannot be done without 24/7 wearability, which is something many tech companies struggle with even today. Wearable devices will only be able to perform at its peak if they can be kept on you at all times. It's not easy but we are dedicated to this goal.

## REVIEW: BOSE SOUNDTOUCH 10

### The best Bluetooth speaker we've tried

Homes in Singapore are getting smaller. I'm pondering how to fit the sneakers and books I've collected over the years when I move to the shoebox masquerading as my apartment. I imagine music lovers face the same problem – 7.1 speaker systems aren't exactly small. The recently released Bose SoundTouch 10 wireless speaker is a surprisingly adequate replacement. The same size as an iPad, the speaker has been a revelatory audio experience. I've tried it everywhere – living room, bedroom, even my cavernous office – and the relatively tiny Bose SoundTouch 10 fully engulfs the space with warm, rich music. The bass notes are a tad over-emphasised but not muddy, which tends to happen when audio engineers equalise the sound package to bring out more bass. The Beats headphones are guilty of this sin. It's also a great sound system for your films. The finishing touches: wireless controls, WiFi and Bluetooth connectivity, and inbuilt compatibility with music streaming apps. If you're in the market for a compact speaker that delivers a great aural package, consider the Bose SoundTouch 10.



## REVIEW: SONY NW-A26HN WALKMAN

### A peculiar historical relic

The last time I used a Sony Walkman was back when Britney Spears was still dating Justin Timberlake and the only game you could play on your mobile phones was Snake, so I was a tad surprised that Sony still made Walkmans. In an age when smartphones double up as music players, the NW-A26HN Walkman is a peculiar contraption. It doesn't support streaming apps such as Spotify and Deezer, and makes you jump through multiple hoops just to get your iTunes library onto the device. What it does, and does well, is play music, assuming you're using a decent pair of headphones. The NW-A26HN enhances your MP3 music files and plays higher bitrate formats such as FLAC and Apple Lossless. If you understood none of the above, this device isn't for you. But if you did, you might want to give the NW-A26HN a shot. It's not cheap though, retailing at \$399. For the regular consumer, that's probably a digit too many for something that, to them, "just plays music".



# The Death of Cash

Technology is killing physical money, and that's good news

WORDS FARHAN SHAH PHOTO GETTY IMAGES



## Three to Five Years

That's how long Jeffrey Goh, the CEO of NETS, reckons it will take before electronic cashless payment methods reach critical mass. "While many sectors, such as transit and bill payments, have gone cashless, there are many other areas that remain traditionally cash-based," Goh tells me.

Rahul Shinghal, PayPal's general manager in Southeast Asia agrees. "We are at a tipping point. We will see more changes in the financial industry in the next three to five years than we have seen in the last two to three decades."

But, legacy systems can be hard to let go of, especially in places such as hawker centres or wet markets. "If hawkers continue to demand cash payments, then consumers will have no choice but to pay with cash," continues Goh.

## \$1,000,000,000

That's how much Singapore approximately spends a year to, well, spend cash. "This includes the bill for printing cash and destroying used notes through shredding and incineration. Banks also bear transaction costs," Goh explains. This cost isn't inclusive of the time you spend in ATM queues to draw cash or in banks to pay your bills, create accounts and settle your other fiscal responsibilities.

This is why Goh and Shinghal are huge advocates of cashless payment systems and digital financial systems. By 2017, both of them expect physical money to make up only 25 per cent of transactions (currently, it stands at 40 per cent) and go down further in the coming decade. Last year, PayPal Southeast Asia processed four billion payments, a quarter of which were made on mobile devices. With the widespread adoption of smartphones, it's only a matter of time before your wallet is in the cloud instead of your back pocket.

## \$1,000,000,000,000


That's how much global mobile payments will be worth in 2017 according to a report by the International Data Corporation, and Asia is leading the charge. "The growing spending power of the middle class in Asia Pacific has resulted in smartphones and tablets morphing from luxury items into virtual appendages, leading to a growth in m-commerce," witnesses Shinghal.

With so much potential money becoming ones and zeroes, trust and security become two big issues. Goh tells me that NETS has actually put in place a free insurance scheme underwritten by AIG that compensates consumers in case they lose their FlashPay cards. A bit of a nanny manoeuvre? Perhaps. After all, we don't get compensated by the bank if we lose our physical cash. But Goh feels it's a necessary step to encourage adoption of cashless payment systems.

As for PayPal, Singhal points to its Buyer Protection and Refunded Returns programmes, both of which protect the consumer from fraud and even buyer's remorse. The technology company also works with the consumers and the merchants to improve the payment process.

## A Digital Mint

Not too long ago, the digital cryptocurrency bitcoin was touted to be the physical currency killer. But it faltered terribly after the biggest bitcoin exchange Mt Gox went bankrupt. The key in creating a viable digital alternative to physical cash is the backing of governments. In this aspect, PayPal has already made inroads, working closely with the authorities of the 203 markets that it's in.

"We are excited about the digitisation of cash and will continue to work with partners to allow people to manage money more easily," says Singhal. Will e-currency be the norm this generation? We say it will. 



# All That Glitters

Planning to dip your fingers into the gold market?

WORDS FARHAN SHAH PHOTO GETTY IMAGES

*IT'S A CHEMICALLY UNINTERESTING METAL* but it's arguably the most valuable element in the world. Gold has a storied history – globally accepted as the currency benchmark for many decades before being abandoned during the Great Depression, used as a decorative material, and employed as a vehicle for investors to preserve their wealth.

Analysts estimate that only about 180,000 tonnes of gold have been mined throughout human history. It's a surprisingly low amount considering that the first pieces of gold were dug out and minted back in 550 BC. It is this rarity, as well as its beauty, that has made gold an appreciating asset. With the volatility of fiat currency and its inflationary characteristic, and with more paper money entering the economy, more and more people are beginning to purchase gold as a hedge against inflation. We chat with Raphael Scherer, chief international officer of Degussa Goldhandel GmbH, about this actively traded precious metal.

## What are the differences between investment and decorative gold?

Actually, both investment and decorative gold have value. But, believe it or not, at the point of purchase, assuming the weight of both products are similar, decorative gold is more expensive than investment gold. It's because you pay a premium for the brand, the designer and the casting, among other factors. It's also easier to sell investment gold because there already is a market that facilitates the buying and selling activity. And while you can sell your decorative gold, or what we call scrap gold, to a dealer, you'll probably get a lower price than what you paid for it.

## What are the most common misconceptions about gold?

Many don't know that there are different purities of gold.

Not all gold is the same. There already is a huge price difference between a bullion that is 99 per cent gold and one that is 99.99 per cent gold. Unfortunately, there are a lot of dealers out there who mislead genuine gold buyers and because most gold pieces look and feel the same despite having different purity levels, many are duped.

## What should I do to avoid this?

Demand for the certificate of authenticity. If you're buying investment gold, look for an LBMA (London Bullion Market Association) certification, which should say a couple of things – the serial number, a fineness mark to four places, the refiner's stamp and the year of manufacture. If the gold comes without a certificate, you should be suspicious.

## Is there a right time to invest in gold?

It's hard to say when the right time to buy is. There are so many questions you have to answer, such as how long you intend to hold the gold for, whether you think fiat money will lose value, etc. If you're investing in gold with a long-term perspective, then I have to say that you can start any time. Over a long period of time, say 10 to 30 years, the historical price of gold has trended upward. You can start an investment plan that involves you purchasing gold at periodic intervals, and although there is no rule of thumb when it comes to allocation numbers, my clients generally invest between five and 10 per cent of their wealth in precious metals. Many believe that only the rich invest in gold but that's not true at all. In fact, most of Degussa's customers are from the lower to middle income demographic. While they don't buy large amounts of gold, they do buy more frequently and at regular intervals. 📈

## ABOUT THE EXPERT



Before joining Degussa in mid-2014, Raphael Scherer was the managing director of Chopard, overseeing the German, Benelux and Scandinavian markets. He has been charged with expanding Degussa into new international markets.



## INSPIRATION



PHOTO JAYDEN TAN STYLING JASMINE HUANG

Plimsolls used to be a forgotten part of menswear, right up till we decided that rather than having the two strict modes of men's fashion – seriously dapper and beach bum – there's room for a middle ground. Now the loafer, espadrille and plimsoll are decked out in stylish options such as suede and leather, a sharp style alternative for the louche.

*Calf-leather sneakers by Bottega Veneta, \$870*



LIVING THE GOOD LIFE

# MAINTENANCE

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JORDAN SPIETH / NIGHTS IN TOKYO / CAPE TOWN / TRAPPIST BEERS



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HEALTHY AND  
GOOD

Grain Traders defies the primitive logic that what's yummy simply cannot be healthy, especially if it's designed for the business district

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DESTINATION



# Lost in Tokyo

Make most of what little time you might have in the city

WORDS HANNAH CHOO PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES + IMPERIAL HOTEL

*AH, TOKYO.* A weird and wonderful mega-metropolis of fast fashion, cutting-edge tech, beautifully packaged anything, trains brimming with armies of overworked salarymen... And its very own commandments to follow: you can't eat and walk on the streets, you can't blow your nose in public, and get this, if a host offers you the last slice of cake and you take it, you've likely overstayed your welcome.

It's a lot of work to be walking on eggshells in a foreign land. Thankfully, what gives this regulated city pulling power is its wonderful cuisine and fascinating culture.

## FRIDAY 2PM: CHECK IN

I've had it with inconsistent Airbnbs. I booked a room at the Imperial Hotel, an impressive hotel with a gracious old-time feel. I couldn't afford the Frank Lloyd Wright Suite, and opted for a room on one of the Imperial floors. It feels like home here, with the bonus of warm bidets and friendly kimono-garbed attendants at your beck and call.

## 3PM: TOKO-AN TEA ROOM, IMPERIAL HOTEL

Most tea ceremonies take a gruelling four hours, but here, for ¥1,500, you only need an hour to learn the basics, such as how you should drink matcha from its bowl. Reservations are recommended.

## 4.30PM: DOVER STREET MARKET

Ginza is just at the Imperial's doorstep. It isn't Tokyo's warmest neighbourhood, but it's luxury central. Shop for your Sunday best at Dover Street Market, which houses over 150 brands including Undercover and Comme des Garçons. It's fun to just window shop too.

## 7PM: TAMAWARAI, ONE MICHELIN STAR SOBA

The best soba lies hidden in the backstreets of Harajuku. Call ahead of time or be prepared to queue (I did, for 1.5 hours), and feast on cold chewy soba and herring. If you can, pop by Glocal Records just before dinner. It's just around the corner up a winding stairway and hosts a great stash of vinyls.



## DESTINATION



THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE  
Dover Street Market  
Ginza; Tsukiji Market; the  
entrance to the Imperial  
Hotel; the Old Imperial  
Bar; soba at the Michelin  
starred Tamawarai



The Old Imperial Bar boasts impeccable service, a reminder of an older, more genteel Tokyo

### SATURDAY 8AM: TSUKIJI FISH MARKET

Sacrificing my sleep for the tuna auction was not an option, but breakfast time seemed plausible. This mammoth market is a reflection of Japan's pre-World War II past and its passion for food. Stock up on freshly-shaved bonito and sticks of wasabi while you're there. Next year, it'll be moved to Toyosu a few kilometres away, and will probably lose some of its original charm in the process.

### 12PM: DAIKANYAMA

This is a whole different world from Ginza. The quirky neighbourhood of Daikanyama is packed with street cred and great food.

Think al fresco dining, independent boutiques and exceptional bookstores.

### 3PM: SHIMOKITAZAWA

It's not as orderly as Daikanyama, but the mess is a big part of its charm. Get lost wandering through the laidback alleys of graffiti, second-hand clothing (the Japs tend to throw away off-season rags) and cafes.

### 7PM: KAMON, IMPERIAL HOTEL

There's no better place for teppanyaki, if you want the best cut of marbled beef and freshest vegetables on the griddle. Sip on Japanese wine (it's unsurprisingly good) while the chefs butter and sear the goods.

### 9PM: THE OLD IMPERIAL BAR, IMPERIAL HOTEL

There's no drink its mixologist cannot make, but before you challenge him, order the Mount Fuji, a refreshing tipple of gin, lemon, pineapple, egg white and fresh cream. This classic cocktail bar with a hint of Frank Lloyd

Wright's influence (spot the 1923 Imperial Hotel décor) also boasts impeccable service, a reminder of an older, more genteel Tokyo.

### 10.30PM: BAR HIGH FIVE

Tucked away on the fourth floor of a small nondescript office building is this tiny, low-lit bar with dreamy background jazz. One of the world's best, it's backed by Hidetsugu Ueno, the guy who made his name at Star Bar. Without the help of a menu, he'll dig for your likes and dislikes, and make you something you never thought you'd like. If it's full (and it'll likely be), be patient. People go to great lengths to get into this bar.

### BEFORE YOU GO

If you can't live without Internet access, rent a pocket WiFi at the airport. It gives access to high speed Internet that can be shared with seven other friends or devices and is affordably priced. Reserve one at [changirecommends.com](http://changirecommends.com). 📶



# Don't Just Knock It Back

The only drinking problem is when you can't get your hands on a drink

COMPILED BY HANNAH CHOO

## HOW RARE IS YOUR WHISKY?

Thanks to the annual two per cent "angel's tax", an old whisky is automatically a rare one. Just don't let the angels drink it all before you do. Given the current supply and demand forces, you would do well to stock up on good rare bottles now for future imbibing. We are.



## DREAM DRAMS

### BLACK AND WHITE

Lurking in the dark warehouses of The Macallan distillery is something extraordinary – casks of spirit bursting with dried fruit, nutmeg and ginger, cut through with sweet dates, figs and raisins. Draw the liquid gold out with a valinch, and its dry smokiness is revealed. Notice the soft oak tones that dance around in your mouth while the whisky departs in a long and elegant manner.

The smoke is a surprise, but while that may appear as out of character, its blood still runs with the essential Macallan DNA. This is the Macallan Rare Cask Black, a non-chill filtered liquid born out of sherry-seasoned European and American oak casks. Available exclusively

to Global Travel Retail for \$605, you can find it only at select airports around the world.

If white spirits are more up your alley, you could save two birds with one stone by drinking Snow Leopard vodka. The spelt grain vodka may be a regular at the bar, but its quest to protect the dying population of the snow leopard is something not many are aware of, especially after a few glasses. A portion from the proceeds are donated to The Snow Leopard Trust, an organisation that protects the ecosystem, from the cat to herder families of Central Asia. It's really the world's first ethical vodka. Every bottle you drink (\$118) helps save one of these beautiful cats.







## INVESTMENT

## HOW TO INVEST IN WHISKY BY JOHN CASHMAN

- [1]** Do due diligence. Read broadly across blogs, online chatrooms and whisky magazines.
- [2]** Don't limit yourself to a preferred style. All kinds of whiskies are good investments.
- [3]** Explore. Some retailers may have dusty bottles of original discontinued gems. Sealed whisky remains fresh for years.
- [4]** A quick way to get a good return on investment is to purchase a strictly limited small batch run. When it's gone, it's gone.
- [5]** Keep your eyes peeled for competition and award results. Case in point: the Irish Kilbeggan 15 was named world's best Irish blend before being discontinued a year later.
- [6]** If you can, buy two of each. One to enjoy and another to keep.

*John Cashman is the international brand ambassador for whiskies at Beam Suntory*

## FANCY BOOZE

## PENICILLIN: THE CURE FOR ALL MALADIES

You may love or hate a Cosmo or Whisky Sour but Sam Ross' inbetweener called Penicillin always gets the thumbs up. Recreated at Adrift, it is muddled with Monkey Shoulder, lemon, honey and ginger syrup, then topped with a spritz of Laphroaig. Visit on Tuesdays 6pm to 9pm to enjoy 50 per cent off. \$23++

*10 Bayfront Avenue, MBS Hotel Tower 2, tel. 6688 5657. Open daily 12pm till late*



## I'LL TAKE MANHATTAN

Named for the hip New York City borough, Manhattan has refreshed its menu of bites and mixes to keep things fun and interesting. We quite liked the Mad Dog (\$24++), a name that harkens back to the Irish-American mobsters of the '90s. It's a heady stir of Irish whisky, orange curaçao, Luxardo Maraschino, Drambuie, absinthe and bitters that's finished with smoked wild cherry bark.

*1 Cuscaden Road, Regent Singapore, tel. 6725 3377. Open daily from 5pm to 1am*



If you're not careful, getting pricked by the sea urchin can lead to pain, paralysis and respiratory failure

## HOTSPOT

## BUENA COMIDA AT TAPAS 39

Gone are the days when Spanish tapas consisted of unwanted fish remains, gifted to the bars by local fishermen. These were turned into snacks to accompany glasses of vino that went out to thirsty Spanish men. People now take pride in their food, no matter how small the package is. Tapas 39 was a pleasant surprise. Tucked away in the back alleys of Duxton, the joint is far from the racket and snobbery of the rest of the neighbourhood. Its food and drinks are so enjoyable that time passes quickly. Consider the Sea Urchin (\$20) and Crispy Baby Squid (\$14) for mouth pleasers and the Spiced Pumpkin Old Fashioned (\$24) or Camparini Fizz (\$21) to shower your liver with.

*Tapas 39 is at 39 Duxton Hill, tel. 6221 4235. Open daily from 11.30am to midnight*



# What's Cooking

Dealing with leftover canned food, edible water bottles and more

WORDS HANNAH CHOO PHOTOS SIMON SIM + SKIPPING ROCKS LAB

## THE REFINERY BOWL

In step with the A-List cookout this month, we ask three chefs to walk through the aisles of Food Bank for inspiration. Find out what you can do with leftover canned food and forgotten boxes of cereal in your larder.

### Follow the instructions and it should take you...

Approximately 60 minutes

### What you need

25g Narcissus spiced pork cubes  
25g Gulong minced meat with bean paste  
30g Mili bamboo shoots  
20g dried shrimp sambal, homemade\* or store bought  
1 tablespoon oyster sauce  
2 teaspoon hua diao wine  
1 egg for poaching\*  
sliced bird's eye chilli (chilli padi) to taste  
steamed Japanese rice

### What to do

In a saucepan, combine the pork cubes with the meat and bean paste. Add in the bird's eye chilli and leave to braise for an hour. In a separate pan, stir-fry the bamboo shoots with the oyster sauce and wine. Once the braising is done, get a bowl of rice ready and top it with the meat, bamboo shoots and egg. Optional: Add extra sambal for kick.

### \*How to make dried shrimp sambal

Heat up oil in a wok and stir-fry sambal belacan with finely chopped shrimp paste (a mixture of one tablespoon soaked dried shrimp, five peeled shallots and five peeled garlic cloves) until dry and fragrant. Season with salt if you like.

### \*How to poach an egg like Julia Child

Prick the eggshell with a pin to release the air in the sac. Boil for 10 seconds, remove the egg and lower the heat to bring the water to a simmer. Now crack the egg in to poach.

SWING  
BY

The Refinery is a three-storey industrial space that takes up the end of a row of shophouses on 115 King George's Avenue. Come here specifically to demolish sticks of yakitori and gravy-laden tubs of poutine.



## MY AWESOME CAFE'S DAILY BREAD

**Follow the instructions and it should take you...**

Approximately 10 minutes

### What you need

A loaf of pain viennoise\* (a softer version of a baguette)

One can Gulong minced meat with bean paste

One jar of sun-dried tomatoes

foie gras pate

mesclun salad

a dash of olive oil, sesame oil and Lea & Perrins

worcestershire sauce

### What to do

Blend equal amounts of the canned meat and sun-dried tomatoes. On a lightly toasted pain viennoise cut in half, spread a layer of foie gras on one side and the blended tomato mix on another. Spread thickly for a good meat to bread ratio. Throw on some mesclun salad and add a dash of the oils and worcestershire sauce.

*\*Feel free to substitute with something crustier or wholemeal*

SWING  
BY

Hipster cafes in the city are a dime a dozen, but My Awesome Cafe, which lives off the past of the Telok Ayer Chung Hwa free Clinic and vintage furniture, stands out with wit, creativity and great sandwiches you can't forget. Find it at 202 Telok Ayer Road.



SWING  
BY

## CHOCOLATE DELICE BY THE TUCKSHOP

**Follow the instructions and it should take you...**

Approximately 40 minutes

### What you need

**[1]** 200g crushed cornflakes + 220g hazelnut praline paste + 80g milk chocolate

**[2]** 640g dark chocolate + 120g unsalted butter + 100g caster sugar + 400g egg white + 20g plain flour + 12.5g sea salt

**[3]** 200ml Ribena drink + 2g agar

### What to do

**[1]** Melt the chocolate and mix in praline paste and cornflakes. Spread out onto a lined baking sheet and refrigerate till solid.

**[2]** Melt chocolate, sugar and butter. In another bowl, whip egg whites to medium peak (start slow and add salt to stabilise). Fold in flour, salt and melted chocolate before pouring into a lined pan. Bake in a water bath at 110°C for 16 minutes, rotating the pan in between.

**[3]** Mix and bring to boil. Allow to cool, refrigerate and cut into cubes.

Assemble the dish by placing cake onto chocolate base, then garnishing with jelly, strawberries, love letters, milo powder and, if you to have, mint leaves and edible flower petals.

Except for Anton Casey, everyone is welcome here. On the corner of Guillemard Road overlooking the Kallang river, The Tuckshop is a great place to take respite from arrogant pricks and connect with the good guys over craft beer and cider. No Dempsey Hill atas-ness here.



## COME TO THE A-LIST COOKOUT

Want to pitch in for a good cause? Join us on 5 December (it's a Saturday) from 7pm. Enjoy food by The Refinery, My Awesome Cafe and The Tuckshop, based on items found at Food Bank Singapore, and music by A-Listers Anthony Southam and Paul Michael Loiz. Tickets are available on [augustman.com](http://augustman.com) at \$50, which gives you \$45 worth of food coupons, FIJI Water and snacks. Proceeds go towards a fresh food truck that will be used to bring food to the immobile elderly and needy in Singapore.



## OOHO! EDIBLE WATER BOTTLES

After you have drunk a bottle of mineral water dry, you'd want to throw it away because reusing it as a waterbottle poses serious health hazards. But throwing it away impacts the fate of our planet. Stuck between the devil and the deep blue sea, three men at Skipping Rocks Lab came up with a viable alternative: Ooho! It's an edible water blob that replaces the plastic with a seaweed and calcium chloride-based membrane. Like a steamed dumpling, you nip it open and slurp away. The guys are focusing on technical development at the moment, but think of what the idea holds for the future. Blobs and blobs of potable water that won't hurt the earth.

*Find out more at [oohowater.com](http://oohowater.com)*



## THE RISE OF SOURDOUGH

In a bowl, throw in a combination of flours, wild yeast, salt, water and extra virgin olive oil. Then ferment the mixture for 48 hours. This is your sourdough starter, an ancient way of saving that bit of unused dough to propagate the next batch. The smoky tang it offers is hard to resist, which makes the pizza at Plank (a subset of the Baker and Cook family) best on the east coast, right next to Bruno's Pizzeria and Grill. Plank's pizza base is crisp with sufficient bite, and toppings aren't too ambitious, with the one exception that is the cranberry and pulled chicken pizza (avoid).

*Plank Sourdough Pizza is at 1 Swan Lake Avenue, tel. 6448 9288*

## TRIPE IS GOOD FOR YOU

The 5th Quarter's attempt at an opulent experience fails in terms of design – a mishmash of distracting red couches and gold trees. What saves the day from this veil of bad taste is Andrew Nocente who places all focus on delivering good food to the table. One dish that will leave an impression is his salt and pepper tripe (\$10). There's no better way to eat this usually wobbly hunk of a stomach lining than as savoury crunchy strips. Not a fan of innards? No problem. Just think of it this way: tripe is nutritious, full of vitamins and non-fatty. Plus, research says it increases libido fourfold.

*5th Quarter is at 39 Syed Alwi Road, Hotel Vagabond, tel. 6291 1936*





COMPLIMENTS FROM THE CHEF

# Bowled Over

A tasty way to play with your food in the CBD

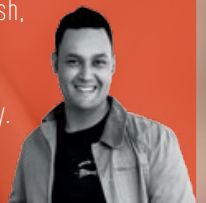
WORDS HANNAH CHOO PHOTO ANDY WONG/RAVE PHOTOGRAPHY

*LOCATED IN THE FIERY WORLD OF FINANCE AND BUSINESS DEALS* at CapitaGreen is a peaceful dining sanctuary. Step inside Grain Traders, home to wholesome bowls in the CBD. It might be delicious but it has way too many hypertrophied chicken rice, char kway teow and the ilk, if you ask us. You pay a premium at Grain Traders, but you get your money's worth – \$16 fetches you one of the six signature bowls, starring favourites like the El Hibaró – striploin, charred veggies, tomato and sprout salad on a bed of sushi rice – and the Rooster's Crow, if you much prefer quinoa and roasted chicken. There is, of course, the option of building your own bowl for the same price. Servings are sufficient to fill, but if you catch yourself hungrier than usual, go ahead and pile it on. Just don't miss out on the charred furikake corn. 🍷

*Grain Traders is at 138 Market Street, CapitaGreen, 01-01/02/03.  
Open Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm*

## HOW HE DOES IT

Founder Javier Perez (also the man behind Kilo) likes it healthy. On a bed of nutty brown rice, he piles on pan-seared salmon, corn furikake, roasted beets, carrots, mixed beans, capsicums, coleslaw and assorted seeds. No sauce is required for this dish, but go ahead anyway.





# The Other Jordan

Watch the golf throne

INTRODUCTION **FARHAN SHAH** INTERVIEW + PHOTO **SMBC SINGAPORE OPEN**

*EVERY FEW YEARS*, an athlete emerges who transcends the sport, garnering global attention and becoming permanently etched in popular culture. There is Michael Jordan with his fade-away jumpers and iconic stuck-out tongue. Then there is Tiger Woods and his incredible golfing achievements, only for them to be overshadowed later by his even more unbelievable marital transgressions. And of course, who can forget David Beckham, the man who transformed a career in football into an empire spanning fashion, alcohol, watches, fragrances and more.

Only 22, Jordan Spieth, who is already a household name in the world of golf, is ripe to explode into public consciousness. He has broken records – previously thought to be unbeatable – and has racked up tournament wins by the truckloads. It's safe to say 2015 is the Year of the Spieth.

The Under Armour athlete started playing golf when he was eight during the summer holidays. His parents had enrolled Spieth and his younger brother Steven in the swim club and while Spieth thrived in the water, he was more interested in the golf course that was visible from the swimming pool.

"He kept bugging us about playing golf. He said that's what he wanted to do. We had three kids to take care of, so we couldn't all head out to the golf course. So, the following summer, I would drop him off at the club and trusted him to do what he was going to do – play golf," Spieth's mother, Chris, recalled in an interview. In spite of his young age, Spieth had the maturity and focus of someone two decades older. He never goofed off, spending hours working on his game.

Today, Spieth finds himself constantly on the move, his golf clubs in tow, to crush the competition in tournaments all around the globe. Next in his iron sights: the SMBC Singapore Open.

**The SMBC Singapore Open will be your first time playing in Singapore. Have you an idea of what to expect in January?**

I couldn't be more excited to visit Singapore for the first time and compete in the SMBC Singapore Open. I'm excited to see the culture and experience the city first hand. I am also expecting to really enjoy the golf, as I've heard nothing but great things about the Serapong Course at Sentosa Golf Club.

**The SMBC Singapore Open is one of Asia's leading tournaments with a list of champions that include Adam Scott, Ian Poulter and Angel Cabrera. When you tee it up in an event with a great history and great champions, is there extra incentive to win?**

Sure, there is definitely an added element that comes when an event has such a great list of past champions. It would be an honour to add my name to that list.

**How important is it for you, as world number one, to play internationally?**

It's extremely important for me to play internationally. I enjoy travelling and I would like to continue to help grow the game globally as much as I can.

**Has it always been an ambition to reach that pinnacle? How does it feel to be able to call yourself number one in golf?**

We've put in a lot of hard work these past few

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I couldn't be more excited to visit Singapore for the first time and compete in the SMBC Singapore Open. I'm excited to see the culture and experience the city

years to get here and being number one in the world has been a lifelong dream. It feels great and now I have to continue to work hard to stay there.

**Your play this year has been amazing. What would you say is your highlight of 2015?**

It's hard to only name one highlight, but certainly capturing my first major championship win at Augusta National is something I'll never forget. My putting and mental game have both been a huge part of my success this year. We've put in a lot of work on and off the golf course to make sure I was prepared when opportunities were presented throughout the year.

**Do you think Asian golfers such as Anirban Lahiri and Hideki Matsuyama have the potential to win Majors in the near future?**

Absolutely. The global game is stronger than ever and guys like Hideki and Anirban are proving it.

**Do you have a target number of major wins for your career?**

I am a big believer in setting and resetting goals as I go along and my goal is to win every time I compete. 🏆





## TRIUMPHANT RETURN

The Singapore Open laid dormant for three years until it was revived by the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC). Besides offering a million-dollar prize purse in the 2016 tournament, SMBC also roped in the Asian Tour and the Japan Golf Tour Organisation to sanction the event. Love golf? We're offering 10 tickets to the Open. More details at [www.augustman.com](http://www.augustman.com).



# Olfactory Rock Star

The badasses of the male fragrance world

WORDS FARHAN SHAH PHOTO SIMON SIM

*IN THE MENSWEAR WORLD*, the name John Varvatos evokes images of rock and roll and leather jackets. The rebellious designer with the bald pate loves his blacks and going against the grain. He recently opened a store in Detroit when everyone else was leaving the city that was seemingly on its last legs, abandoned by businesses and people alike.

What the name John Varvatos doesn't evoke though is the concept of iconic male fragrances. Truth be told, I've always been sceptical of John Varvatos perfumes. Raised on an olfactory diet of classic scents composed by luxury menswear houses, the thought of having a John Varvatos bottle, with its rough edges and in-your-face packaging, in my wardrobe didn't appeal to me. Its campaigns too were decidedly counter-culture, appealing to the rebellious and devil-may-care, while I preferred mine to be classy and restrained.

His latest campaign for his newest fragrance release Dark Rebel was no exception. Varvatos once again employed his longtime muse, model Jonas Kessler, to star in the video and images and shot the campaign in the city of, you guessed it, Detroit.

It's not a surprise since the scent was inspired by the Motor City. "There was this cloud that was over this city and then all this light shone through. That's kind of what I wanted with this fragrance, something dark and moody but with a lightness to it. I wanted to do a badass fragrance," shared Varvatos in *GQ UK*. He sought regular collaborator Rodrigo Flores-Roux to make his vision a reality.

I chatted with Flores-Roux to find out more about Dark Rebel and the ethos of John Varvatos in his fragrances.

## What was the inspiration for Dark Rebel?

The fragrance was borne out of unexpected danger. I created a scent that takes you completely by surprise, and permeates the senses with its rich, rough and wild aroma. Dark Rebel captures the essence of rock and roll and bad boy icons through sexy leather and intoxicating boozy notes, and as always, staying very true to John Varvatos' roots.

## What were the inspirations behind the varied notes in the fragrance?

The fragrance needed to have a sharp edge to match its dark, rebellious vibe. The eclectic blend of the notes offers a unique experience that gives the fragrance its extra kick. There are hints of tobacco leaves, Jamaican rum, black leather, dragon skull flower accord, and black pepper essence that give Dark Rebel its intriguing contrast of refreshing spontaneity and deep, raw sexiness.

## Does it have unique ingredients?

The dragon skull flower accord comes from the exotic snapdragon flower. It has an unusual personality that pairs nicely with supple, broken-in black leather and the bite of black pepper. This accord, along with the Jamaican rum, takes the fragrance beyond the traditional range of men's scents, to give a more daring, signature statement.

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The fragrance was borne out of unexpected danger. I created a scent that takes you completely by surprise, and permeates the senses

## How does Dark Rebel differ from the rest of the John Varvatos collection?

Dark Rebel has an enticing perplexity that is unique in the John Varvatos fragrance collection. The scent is unfamiliar, yet instantly intoxicating and irresistible. The mixture of notes is devilish, together crafting something more exciting and daring than ever before.

## How does it fit into the modern man's lifestyle?

I envisioned Dark Rebel as the perfect way for the modern man to tap into his sexy, wild side. It is the gritty feeling of wearing black leather embodied in a cool rebellious fragrance. It compliments both modern and vintage styles, giving the wearer a distinctive edge.

The idea of being distinctive did appeal to me, even though rock and roll, isn't up my alley, so I tried on Dark Rebel for a couple of nights. I completed it with my best smouldering gaze. The scent was indeed intoxicating and while it didn't last very long, it did send a couple of interested glances my way. I was intrigued by the notes, which aren't the sort you find in typical fragrances. It is a nighttime fragrance, best worn with attitude and a leather jacket. 

## THE REBELLIOUS PREDECESSORS

An aspect of John Varvatos fragrances that I admire is its consistent packaging. Varvatos has kept each fragrance's bottle design the same, relying on textural details and tactile sensation to relay the idea of the scent to the wearer and to make the scent stand out on the shelves. See Acqua and Artisan Acqua. It's a vastly different approach from other fragrance houses.

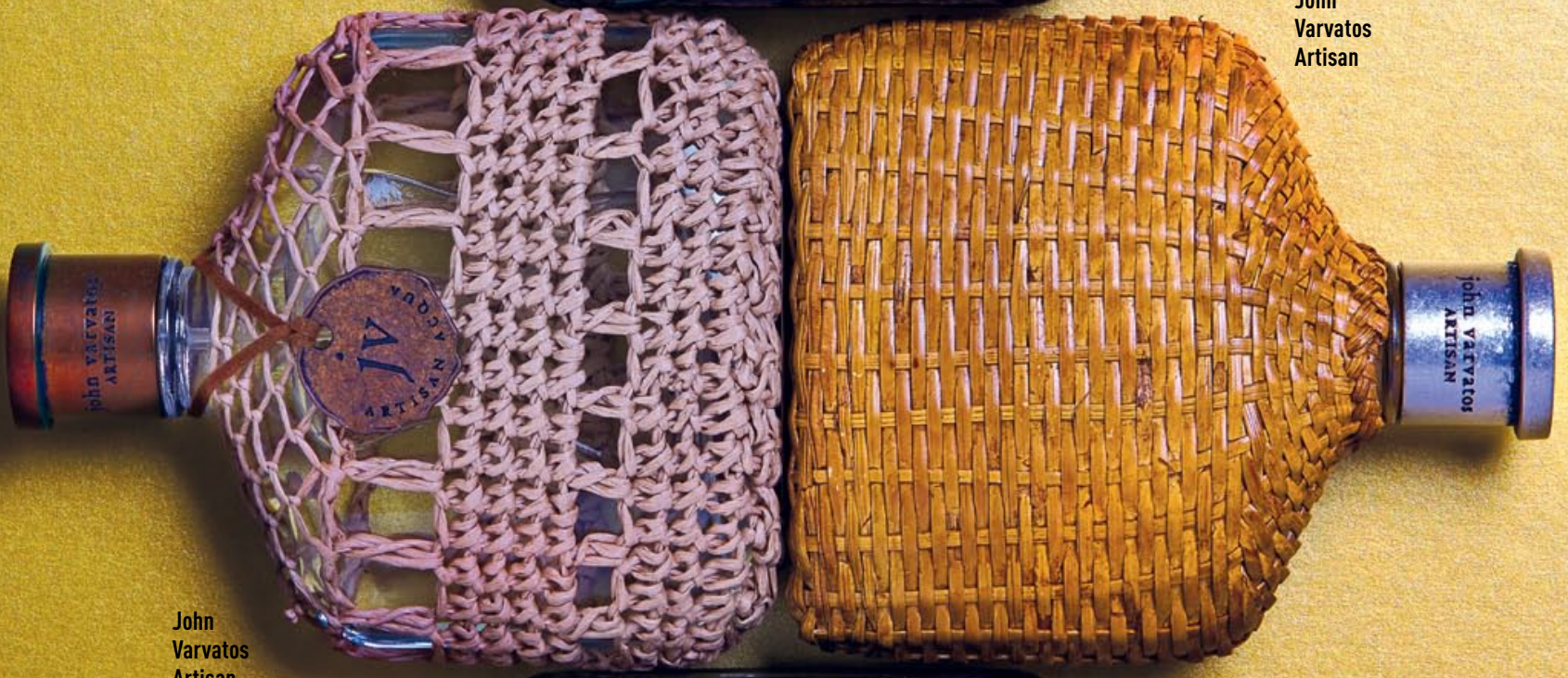




John  
Varvatos



John  
Varvatos  
Artisan



John  
Varvatos  
Artisan  
Acqua



John  
Varvatos  
Dark Rebel



# EVENTS

AUGUSTMAN ABOUT TOWN



## ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA – SU MISURA EXPERIENCE

In an event hosted by *August Man* managing editor Darren Ho, Ermenegildo Zegna proudly invited guests to experience Su Misura, Italian for tailor-made, with Mario Felisari, its stylist specially flown in from Milan. Those present enjoyed a personal style consultation, wardrobe makeovers and made-to-measure services. Apart from the impeccable tailoring, guests were also treated to delicious canapés and tea-infused Bacardi cocktails.







## THE PODIUM LOUNGE SINGAPORE 2015

This year's Formula One festivities kicked off with the ultimate after-party, The Podium Lounge Singapore 2015, at the the Ritz-Carlton Millenia Singapore. Over 3,000 guests were present on both nights to catch Formula One drivers and teams, Channel E! News Asia hosts and even Kristian Nairn, better known as Hodor from *Game of Thrones*. It was a spectacular weekend filled with great performances.







## BRAUN BÜFFEL'S AW15 PARIS- INSPIRED COLLECTION

Guests enjoyed an evening of crafted leather goods and exquisite Bruichladdich whisky at Braun Büffel's flagship store at Suntec City. Braun Büffel's AW15 collection was inspired by the City of Love, and pays homage to its art and culture. During registration, guests took part in an activity that involved choosing coloured cards, which corresponded to various personality types. Written on the card was a recommended type of Bruichladdich whisky as well as a product from the collection that best matched the recipient's sartorial taste and drinking palate. One lucky guest also walked away with a Braun Büffel bag.







## TAG HEUER'S FLOATING TENNIS PLATFORM

Hundreds of guests were treated to a spectacle as TAG Heuer recently unveiled Singapore's first floating tennis platform at Clifford Pier. TAG Heuer ambassador Maria Sharapova arrived on a boat to take on former world number two Michael Chang in a singles game along the bay. Sharapova was in good form as she glided around the floating court, scoring points against Chang and eventually winning the game. Two young local tennis players were invited to join the stars in a mixed-doubles game. In the Charity Rally that followed, both pairs tried to keep the ball in play with TAG Heuer pledging \$100 per rally to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The longest rally reached was 181.



## AXOR CITTERIO E LAUNCH

Media and other industry guests were treated to two nights of splendour on at the Hansgrohe boutique, as the latest collection of bathroom fixtures by Italian architect and designer Antonio Citterio and Axor were unveiled. On the first night, media guests were treated to numerous activities like tarot-card reading and mask-making upon arrival. They were also served a special three-course dinner after a presentation on the latest collection was done. On the second night, guests from various other industries enjoyed good food, cabaret dancing and even a lucky draw with a top prize worth over \$1,400.





# STOCKISTS<sup>®</sup>

## WHERE TO SPEND YOUR MONEY

**A.LANGE & SÖHNE** [www.alange-soehne.com](http://www.alange-soehne.com)  
6509 1712, 2 Orchard Turn, 02-05A ION Orchard

**Armani Collezioni** [www.armani.com](http://www.armani.com)  
6304 1382, 2 Bayfront Avenue, B2M-229,  
The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands

**BALLY** [www.ballyofswitzerland.com](http://www.ballyofswitzerland.com)  
6238 2077, 2 Orchard Turn, 01-12 ION Orchard

**BERLUTI** [www.berluti.com](http://www.berluti.com)  
6235 2521, 391 Orchard Road, 01-13 Ngee Ann City

**BLACKBARRETT BY NEIL BERRET**  
[www.blackbarrett.com](http://www.blackbarrett.com)  
6304 1345, 290 Orchard Rd, #02-17/18 Paragon

**BLANCPAIN** [www.blancpain.com](http://www.blancpain.com)  
6836 9659, 435 Orchard Road, L2-33/38  
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# EPILOGUE

THE GOOD TIMES REVIVAL

## Snail Meal

Save the garden snails for Christmas

WORDS HANNAH CHOO PHOTO GETTY IMAGES

Escargot, how you love them. But in case you're feeling the pinch eating them at top tables, here's how you can clean out your garden and have a shell feast at one go. Instead of raining pesticides or salt on the hermaphroditic mucus-secreting single-footers, catch them. But don't eat them just yet. You need to put them through a two-week detox. According to Gordon Ramsay, all you need do is leave them in a jar without food (punch the lid with holes so they can breathe) and wash them regularly. On day three, feed them a stick of carrot and continue cleaning till their droppings turn orange. Wash the snails a final time before placing them in the fridge in a ziplock bag to knock them out. Finally, slide them into boiling water. This forms a disgusting layer of scum, but clean it off, drain the water and you have snails ready to be fried in pancetta, drizzled with parsley, lemon juice and olive oil for a salad, or baked with garlic and parsley butter. (Here's when you do add the salt.) This may save you lots of money or put you off escargot forever. Happy Christmas.

